

KEEP STRONG

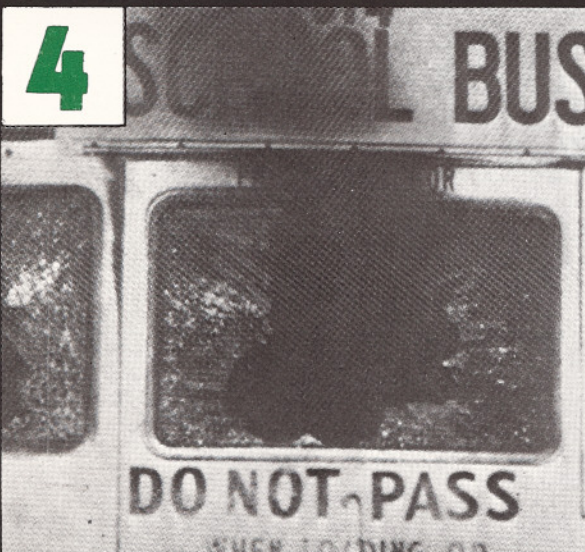
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• What Is Wrong With The Schools?
• JoAnne Little Speaks In Uptown



In This Issue:



1 This issue of KEEP STRONG focuses on problems and solutions in education. See editorial "Protect Our Future," "On the Street" at Senn High School, interviews with a parent advisory council member, the Southern School, and Ericka Huggins of the Oakland Community School. Also see School Round-up and David Du Bois on changes in education in China.

2 Thompson continues his land grabbing and people evacuation tactics on Broadway with the help of the city. See Fighting City Hall.

3 JoAnne Little returns to Chicago after her historic acquittal and pays a visit to Uptown while speaking for Delbert Tibbs.

4 Are opportunist politicians and groups like the Klan using the busing-desegregation issue to drum up supporters and race hatred? (See pgs. 25 & 27.)

5 International support grows for the Independence of Puerto Rico. See Intercommunal Perspective.

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Protect Our Future

The brutal destruction of minds and opportunities that is the Chicago school system continued to be used and abused by self-seeking politicians throughout what should have been the first full month of school this year. While teachers stayed out on the picket line demanding higher wages and smaller classes, the real issue of the strike took place in news conferences: would Daley make Walker look bad or would Walker make Daley look bad?

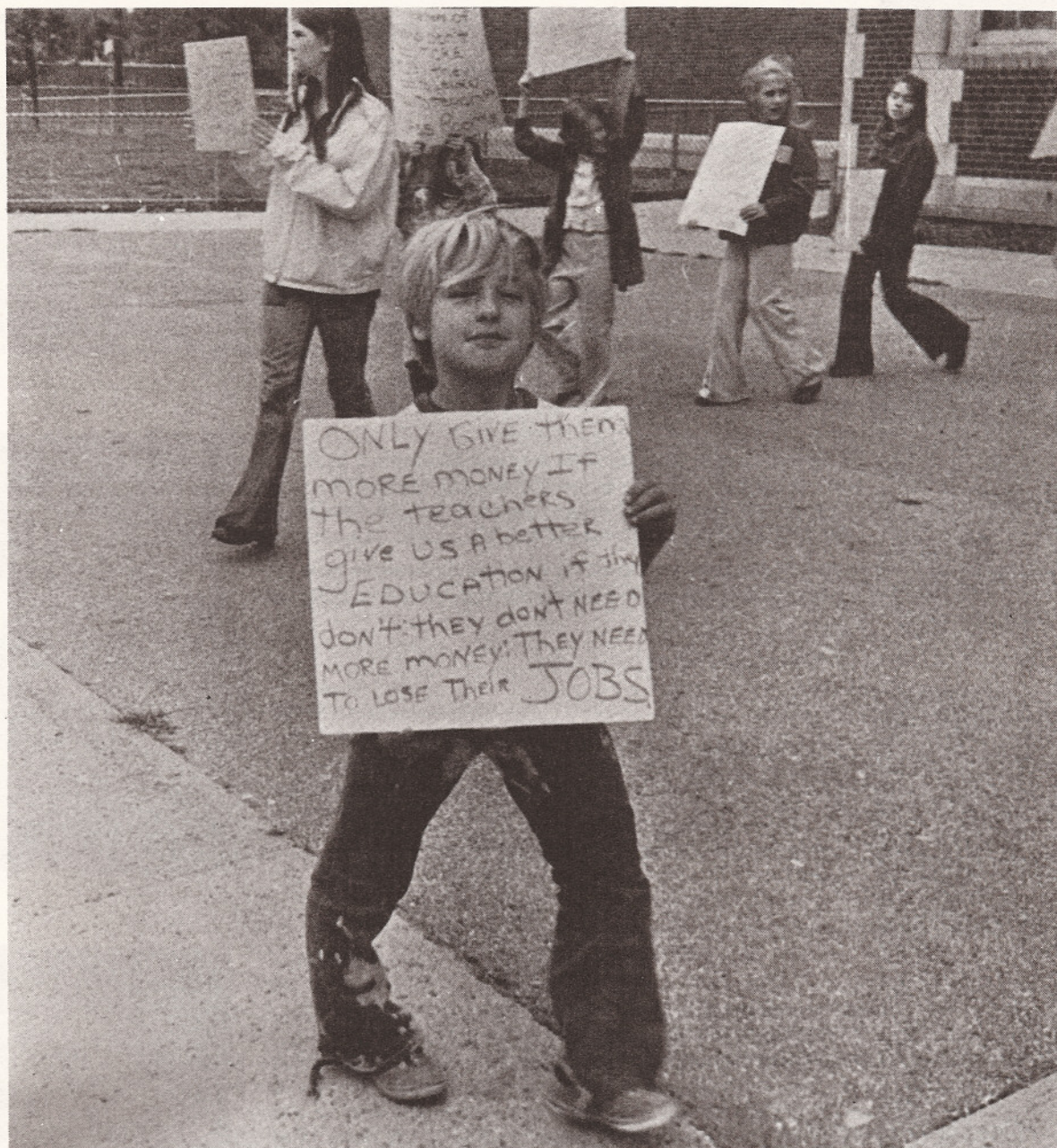
Still the most important question comes now that the teachers are back teaching in school. With the highest paid teachers in the country, Chicago has one of the poorest records in teaching our youth to read. And poor reading scores are only the tip of an ugly iceberg.

As young students fall farther and farther behind because of inadequate instruction, the inevitable happens: they drop out. The combination of boredom and insult is forcing thousands of young brothers and sisters onto the streets, into the arms of waiting police. With no jobs, the alternatives are the penitentiary or the U.S. Army.

For those who stay in school, each day brings new disillusionment. The few dedicated and talented teachers give up very soon in the face of political administrative bureaucracies and hopelessly confused conditions.

Our children do not get, in Chicago schools, an understanding of our "true history and role in modern day society." Instead of resolving contradictions between people of different races and cultures, the course in calculated boredom and irrelevancy makes contradictions rise. Fights take the place of learning, and survival takes the place of knowledge.

If the government cannot or will not provide a decent, relevant educational system, respectful of our right to equality and self-determination, then the people must take matters into their own hands. No amount of rhetoric will take the place of the community taking control of the educational system, school by school. We have to protect our youth, who are our future, from a system that is bent on their destruction. □

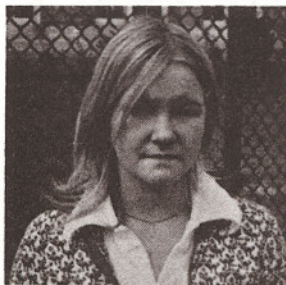


Mothers and children strike for better education during Chicago teachers' strike.

“With the highest paid teachers in the country, Chicago has one of the poorest records in teaching our youth to read. And poor reading scores are only the tip of an ugly iceberg.”

ON THE STREET

"WHAT DO YOU EXPECT TO GET OUT OF SENN?"
Question asked at Senn High School, 5900 N. Glenwood.



Pam Reney
4433 N. Greenview

"You don't learn anything at school. You learn more on the streets 'cause the teachers don't want to teach you anything. Everytime you turn around they go on strike. The teachers take all the rights. They don't give us any choice about what we want to do."

Rene Mendoza
950 W. Belle Plaine



"You have to pay alot of money to the school. Everyday my parents have to give me \$2 to come to school. I can't afford the money, and then they expect us to pay \$5 for gym. I don't like that."

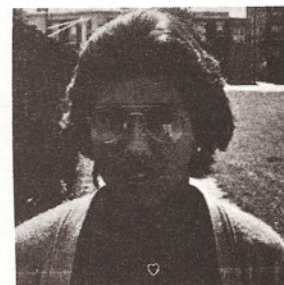


Michael Jones
229 N. Latrobe

"I'm not getting anything out of Senn because I already had it last year. I need something new. They're teaching me this year the same thing they taught me last year."

Gwen Williams
4747 N. Malden

"Well, last year they failed me in science but I tried really hard. They failed me 'cause I was absent alot. That's not fair because when people do the work, even if they're absent, they're still learning. Some of the teachers don't even try to teach: they just stick a book in your face and say read it and do the work. Our parents are working to pay for them and then they strike. They get more money and they're still not trying to teach us. I really don't think I'm going to get an education even when they're not on strike."



Henry Garcia
1506 W. Lawrence

"I came to Senn last year but I dropped out because the classes were boring. Then I came back this year and I was going to register but I found out they already had my schedule. That freaked me out — they passed me! I didn't learn nothing."

Evelyn Rivera
4332 N. Kenmore

"If the teachers got off on strike why can't we so that we can have our spring vacation. If they have their rights then we should have our rights, too. And they should teach a little more. They aren't teaching us what we need to know. They need more Spanish teachers."



John McCoy
4107 N. Broadway

"In my opinion the teachers aren't teaching enough. You can learn more out on the streets than you can in school."

Marsha Long
4550 N. Clarendon

"What I think about Senn is that the school doesn't have any unity whatsoever. If the school had some unity about it, it would be a much better school. They have bias (you hear about the bias) between Blacks and whites, Puerto Ricans and Blacks and so on. We sit in the same class and can be friends, and then we get outside and fight. All this is so unnecessary."



Al Garcia
4200 N. Sheridan Rd.

"I don't dig this thing because they give the smart kids better classes than the people with low grades. I figure that they want people who are already smart to get smarter and the people who are not so smart, they want them to stay like that."

Claudia Knebelsberger
1310 N. Astor

"I think Senn needs to improve. The teachers need to be more interested in the students. The teachers are coming to school just to get their pay checks and that's it. The teachers' strike was ridiculous. They should have settled it during the summer. Now we got to make up for the days they messed up."



Steve Lan
827 W. Sunnyside

"I think they should let us do what we want. They gave me two classes I asked for and the rest what they wanted. When you go try to get it changed, they push you back and forth. Last year there were alot of fights at Senn. The main reason was race. White people don't like Black people over here and Black people don't like whites. Over at Bob's they have a rule, "no Blacks allowed," and Blacks go over there just to start something because they don't want to be shut out. I don't know what can be done. You can't tell them (whites) anything. They don't want to listen."

WELFARE RIGHTS

How To Fight SSI Cuts

Many disabled and old people across the country receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) which is a check from the federal government. The amount they give you is not enough to meet the cost of living, but people who have no other choice must depend on this small check for their survival.

The federal government is claiming that they have been overpaying people who are on the SSI program for the last few years. To make up for their mistakes and to get the money back they are planning to take the overpayments out of people's checks. In some cases people may not receive any check at all. These cuts may begin in October. Court cases are pending.

Any reduction in SSI checks will make it impossible for the people who depend on them to survive through the month. Dollie Rogers is typical of other SSI recipients. She is ill and unable to work. She receives \$157 a month from SSI. She gets a supplement of \$35 a month from public aid. She receives a total of \$192 a month. Out of this she pays \$125 for rent, \$16 for food stamps, \$4 for laundry, and at least \$12 on transportation to make necessary and frequent trips to the doctor. With the \$35 left she must eke out all household supplies and personal items, clothes, phone calls, and if she's lucky, nothing unexpected will happen.

If her SSI check is cut, even a little bit, how can she make it? This is the question that the federal government, who is responsible for the program, neither thinks about nor cares about. They made the mistakes, they should pay for it.

If you receive SSI and are notified by the social security board that you have been overpaid and that they plan to cut your checks, make sure you get the notice in writing. If they tell you over the phone or at the social security office tell them you want it in writing. The first thing to do is to file for a "no-fault" waiver. With this you are saying that you did not know you were being overpaid so you did not knowingly spend money that you

weren't supposed to get. You are asking them not to take the money back.

At the hearing for the waiver, besides proving you were not at fault, you must prove it would be a "hardship" on you if they cut your checks. You will need proof of all income you have, and how much you spend each month (for rent, food, laundry, etc.) This waiver must be filed within 30 days after you receive the notice.

If they refuse the waiver, you can ask for reconsideration, within 30 days. They will go over all information and evidence you submitted and come to another decision. If the reconsideration is also refused, you can file for a formal hearing. At this point, you should get someone to represent you. (It can be anybody you want.) If this appeal is denied, the only thing left to do is take it to federal court, which you need an attorney for.

- * Your checks are not supposed to be cut during the appeal process.
- * It's important to keep all letters and notices you receive from Social Security.
- * If they have already started cutting your checks, it is too late to file a "no-fault" waiver. File for a formal hearing immediately.
- * If you would like more information, contact the 46th Ward Community Service Center, 4048 N. Sheridan Rd., 472-1031. □



Dollie Rogers: if her SSI check is cut, how can she make it?

UNEMPLOYMENT

The Long Unemployment Line

The Illinois Bureau of Employment Security, under severe attack over the last few months because of its failure to provide unemployment checks within a reasonable time to jobless workers, has made the bold promise to make the system work. Lawrence Richard, replacing Christopher Nugent as Bureau Director, and Robert Haughey replacing Billie J. Paige, have stated that they plan to have all checks out within 14 days by January 1st. Community organizations have raised the point that January is still several months away and question what people are to do in the meantime. In late July a federal court judge ordered the state of Illinois to pay unemployment benefits within 3 weeks of an initial claim and no later than 2 weeks after subsequent claims.

Currently only 62% of the persons eligible for unemployment receive their first check within 4 weeks (and rarely less than 2). The other 38% often are faced with waits of up to 3 and even 4 months.

Unemployment in the Chicago and six-county metropolitan area reached the highest level since the depression in the 1930's - 9.6%. In Chicago the official figures reached 11.6%, reflecting the 157,000 Chicagoans out of work as reported by the Mayor's Office of Manpower.

Throughout the oppressed communities of Chicago, the official unemployment rate severely underscores the increasingly large number of people who haven't been able to find work in so long that they aren't included in the official figures. In addition, these figures do not include young people under 18 for whom finding a job is near impossible. □

Walker Destroying Civil Service in Illinois?

State Senator Richard Newhouse (D-24) has

recently initiated hearings to investigate the hiring and lay-off of minorities by certain state agencies including the Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Mental Health and the Department of Labor. One source said that among the people being laid-off the majority have been rated either excellent or superior. Rule changes in the Department of Personnel have enabled the state to lay off, demote and transfer long term employees, as well as reduce some of their other rights. These same rule changes have allowed the practice of bringing in untrained new people for supervisory positions who are being trained by the same people who are being laid off. These actions by the state have raised the question of Walker's intentions, and it has been suggested that he is trying to destroy civil service in Illinois in order to replace it with a patronage system. Senator Newhouse has asked Walker to stop the lay-offs until his hearings are over. □

Daley Moves on Civil Service in Chicago

Meanwhile, Mayor Daley has proposed to replace Chicago's civil service system with a Department of Personnel. It has been charged that unless certain additions are made to Daley's proposal, the new system will increase the mayor's control of all city jobs creating an even more powerful patronage army for his machine.

Five independent aldermen have pointed out that, while modernizing the personnel system would be a good step forward, a few protections and safeguards are essential. They have introduced several amendments to the proposed Daley-backed ordinance that would provide these assurances. They include guarantees for job security and fair disciplinary procedures before an independent board, assurance that the merit principle of employment won't be sabotaged by wholesale exemption of positions or too much leeway in making appointments and vague testing procedures, guarantees that qualified individuals and non-partisan political officials are appointed as Personnel Director and to the Personnel Board, prohibition of discrimination in city employment, prohibition of employees from holding partisan offices or being forced to do precinct work in campaigns, and the continued City Council supervision of the new personnel system. □

HEALTH NEWS

Pregnancy and Medication

There is much in the news these days regarding the use and abuse of medications during pregnancy. This subject should be considered in the framework of overall prenatal care which is the close monitoring of the general health of a pregnant woman while she carries a baby leading to the birth of a healthy child. The importance of beginning prenatal care as early as possible cannot be overemphasized because it is easy to understand the value of keeping the mother and baby healthy.

A developing fetus (the baby before birth) is greatly affected by many practices of its mother — from cigarette smoking or drinking alcohol to taking medicine. In the beginnings of pregnancy the blood supply of the fetus is totally interconnected with that of its mother; and since most medicine is taken by mouth or injected, then absorbed through the bloodstream, you can imagine that the baby feels the effects.

Here are some guidelines to follow with regard to using medication while pregnant:

1. Even the most common medicine available over the counter at any drugstore is still a drug. You should think about various drugs you may have taken in the past — laxatives, diet pills, water pills, cough medicines, etc. Ask yourself, during pregnancy, if you go to take any such drug, is it really necessary. You should be cautious, and here's a good example why: reports have been coming out in the last couple of months showing the probable relationship between using aspirin on a regular basis during pregnancy and complications such as bleeding and infection. Aspirin is probably the most common drug on the market, but during pregnancy, it should be used sparingly.

2. On the other hand, if you have an ongoing medical problem or an illness occurs while you're pregnant, of course you might need to take medicine. Asthmatics, for example, can't just stop taking asthma medicine, though the doctor might want to change the type or dosage. As another example, a diabetic will probably have to

continue taking medication, though, if she has been taking oral drugs, she will probably be changed to insulin injections. If you get a bladder infection, you'll need to be treated.

3. You have a right to understand how and why you're being treated and just what your doctor is doing. Ask all the questions you need to. You have the choice of changing doctors if you are not satisfied.

There is a greater awareness these days among health workers including doctors about the importance of women understanding their bodies and having a right to such knowledge. Keep in mind that some doctors are specially trained to give prenatal care (obstetrician-gynecologists). You should make contact with one as early as possible in your pregnancy. □

LEGAL RIGHTS

Adult Probation: Doing Time on the Outside

Report every month for years to a probation officer, don't get arrested, don't carry a gun, do find a job, do support your wife and children, don't associate with other convicted criminals, do let your probation officer know where you live at all times, do expect him or her to drop in on you, and mostly do expect to take more and more harassment from the police who know you're on probation.

Sounds hard, doesn't it? But these are some of the conditions that are an alternative to prison sentence, and more and more of us are faced with these types of living conditions.

Along with the many other problems in just surviving these days, if you're on probation you have a more difficult living situation. Even if your probation officer is decent and sympathetic to your problems, you stand a good chance of having your probation revoked and being sent to prison.

Let's look at the facts. For the year 1975, the

adult probation department has a budget of \$2,476,240, an increase of \$460,000 over 1974. The largest amounts do not go to probation officers for programs to benefit the people, but to clerks, typists, fancy supervisors and administrators.

At the start of this year there were 127 probation officers but not all of them handle cases. Some are involved in special programs and others in training programs. Each probation officer's actual case load is over 200 and is expected to become much larger. There were over 25,000 people on probation at the beginning of this year. With more people being indicted this year for crimes than ever before, the situation looks very bad for anyone to get personalized help or attention.

The probation department has claimed the main problem is there are too few probation officers to do an adequate job. In the last 5 years, however, the department has returned to the County Board of Supervisors over \$1,261,054 in unspent funds. This money could have gone towards job and educational programs, designed

to give people on probation the opportunity to get necessary skills and training to survive with dignity on the outside.

According to law, there are a few things you must do while on probation to meet minimum standards. You cannot violate any criminal statute of any jurisdiction. You must make a report to your probation officer and appear before him according to the orders given by the court. If you are arrested while on probation there is a rule of evidence that is different than at a regular trial: when on probation and standing trial for an offense, all the State's Attorney has to prove for a guilty finding is a preponderance of guilt (51% of the evidence is against you, therefore you're guilty). There are many more do's and don'ts that the judge can add as part of your probation, but these are the main things to remember.

If you live on the Northside and are having a difficult time with your p.o. come to the 46th Ward Community Service Center and we'll try to work with you in doing time on the outside. □

TENANTS' RIGHTS

Tenants' Utility Pool

Hardly a day goes by in the city of Chicago when someone doesn't find himself without gas, heat, hot water or electricity. This happens most frequently in poor communities when an absentee owner is walking away from a building or is about to sell it. Sometimes it lasts a few hours or a day or two and sometimes it lasts weeks or even months.

For instance, last winter, Delia Radhakrishnan, her four children, and two other families were living at 4032 N. Kenmore St. They were without any heat, gas or electricity off and on for 3 months. In an attempt to save the building they banded together and held on as long as they could, but by January, 1975, the building was completely abandoned and remains so today.

Or take Mrs. Julie Krakowski's situation. She lived at 917 W. Lawrence Ave. for over 10 years.



Delia Radhakrishnan, without heat, gas or electricity for 3 months.

She paid her rent every month. Throughout 1974 she noticed steady deterioration in the condition of the building. The heat was shut off. She continued to pay her rent. Winter came and the

manager continued to promise that it would soon be turned on again. Mrs. Krakowski lived there for many months without heat while caring for her crippled husband. One morning in January she woke up to find that she was the only tenant left in the 30 unit building. A wrecking crew was busy taking out toilets, radiators and other fixtures. Within a few days the building was demolished.

A PROPOSAL

The 46th Ward Community Service Center has proposed the establishment of a tenants' utility pool to the Peoples Gas, Light, and Coke Co. and Commonwealth Edison — the electric company.

The proposal calls for the establishment of regular communication lines between the utility companies and the Service Center. The purpose of this communication would be to get information on overdue bills on large buildings. In this way the Service Center could notify the tenants and remind the landlords of overdue bills within 10 days of the date the bill should have been paid. Then, if the bills are not paid the Service Center would be notified before any services are cut so staff workers could recontact the tenants and the owner. They would explain to the owner that he has a choice of paying the bill willingly or being sued by his tenants, which in the long run would cost him a lot more.*

Partial Payments

In addition, the proposal requests the utility companies to accept 20 per cent partial payment (up to \$500) in exchange for maintaining service for one more month. If the tenants are aware that their utilities may be cut off as soon as a bill becomes overdue they would have time to organize a direct partial payment to the utility company *before* their services are cut off. If by making a partial payment they could get their services extended one more month they would have the time to seek counsel and to prepare a suit in municipal court to have the judge order the landlord to pay his bill or be held in contempt of court.

STABILIZE THE COMMUNITY

The 46th Ward Community Service Center was developed out of José Cha-Cha Jiménez' Campaign for Alderman. The main theme of that campaign was the need to stabilize the community. Clearly the continual loss of gas, lights, heat and hot water, caused by irresponsible and greedy landlords, is a cause of turmoil in our community. This problem can only be solved when the utility companies begin to work with the people who need and use their services so that the people can begin to exert more control over the housing in the community. □

SLUMLORD OF THE MONTH

Thorek Family

Anybody with a few dollars can kill a street. They can buy a building, use it as collateral (something to put up to get a loan) to buy a couple more buildings, lend some money to a friend or relative to buy a few more — pretty soon they own the whole block, or most of it. Sometimes they do it because they like collecting rent; sometimes they do it for a tax loss. But never do they put money back into the buildings; and the buildings always deteriorate quickly within a few years.

Tony Kristl, the proprietor of United Investment and Real Estate Co., 738 W. Irving Park, is a speculator, a fast buck boy, or in some circles "a highly successful realtor."

It has been common knowledge in the community for years that American Hospital was planning to expand and would soon sit squarely on most of the 800 and 900 blocks of W. Irving Park. It has been just as common knowledge that the school board was going to build a new elementary school on the 800 block of W. Sheridan, which is why the A & P came down. All this construction talk is music to the ears of a speculator.

So how does someone with a few dollars get in on the action? The answer is easy. Buy up everything in between. In this case the 800 block of Dakin is in between, and it is half empty lots to start with.

Knowing that American Hospital is about to invest 13 million dollars in a new 234 bed building and the city about half that much in a new school

building, it becomes easy to see the natural increase in the value of the land between the two sites. But urban renewal is like a disease. It has to spread to keep alive, and all those shiny new buildings couldn't exist side by side with the type of low-income housing that is on Dakin now.

So, while the land value increases, the buildings and the people in them become an obstacle to Daley, Rubloff, the Thorek family, Thompson or any other profiteer who wants to turn the neighborhood into a three ring circus.

Tony Kristl bought the building at 836-38 W. Dakin in August, 1973 in partnership with a guy named Grecz. In September, 1974, his friend Zlato "Joe" Kapudija bought the buildings at 818 through 826 W. Dakin. In February, 1975, Kristl bought the land from 840 to 844 and the building at 846-48 W. Dakin. By March, 1975, Kristl and

his friends owned the entire block except for two frame houses and the building on the northwest corner of Dakin and Fremont which belong to a guy named Kussow who has ten different addresses.

Sometime between March and August, 1975 Kristl took out a \$60,000 fire insurance policy on the building at 846 W. Dakin.

In the first week of August, Kristl advised Leroy Copeland who had been a tenant at 846 W. Dakin for over three years to move next door to Kristl's other building. On August 7, late in the afternoon, two men began to work on a dark colored Volkswagon in the yard behind 846 Dakin. They worked there until about 7:00. At 6:45 p.m., as Kristl was going through the building at 846 with his manager, he told her to lock up, that he was going home. At approxi-



"Private interests are working hand in hand with the city of Chicago to take our communities apart and drive us out."

mately the same time, two men were seen walking west in the alley carrying large metal cans. A witness at 838 Dakin heard a loud noise and saw a flash of light through the window. Running to the window the witness observed the rear of the building at 846 engulfed in flames. The fire overtook the building quickly. The Copeland's dog, which was tied on the back porch, was burned to a crisp without uttering a single sound. Mr. John Kroggman, a resident of the building for many years, was taken to the hospital for smoke inhalation. He died two weeks later, never having recovered. The men repairing the Volkswagon disappeared when the fire started and have never been seen or heard from since.

The situation is clear. The people of the community are a liability to American Hospital's 13 million dollar investment. American Hospital is already notorious throughout the community for its callousness and butchery. We have no reason to believe that its new expansion is motivated by a sudden concern for our health but

more likely by financial considerations, including their new back-up agreement with Illinois Family Health Plan, Inc. a "trade your green card for a gold card" outfit.

It really doesn't matter in the end who burned 846-48 W. Dakin, although we have a good idea who it was. We don't have to know who murdered Mr. Kroggman, or who buys all the buildings on the block, or who lets them run down until they're not fit to live in, or who collects the rents. It doesn't matter if Kristl is a front man for American or just a small time sharpie trying to make it big. Private interests (in this case the Thorek family) are working hand in hand with the City of Chicago (in this case the Board of Education) to take our communities apart and drive us out. American Hospital is the one that is trying to eat us and spit us out somewhere on the other side of the Chicago River just like Thompson is doing a few blocks north.□

POLICE WATCH

Beat Representative Program Controversy Continues

Controversy over the Chicago Police Department's Beat Representative Program continued last month as more community leaders and organizations questioned the purpose and effectiveness of the program. Superintendent Rochford announced the program last spring as a way "to gain citizen participation in fighting crime and improve police-community relations." The program involves selecting a "beat representative" for each police beat from the community and block captains to report to the beat representative. The beat rep then is supposed to maintain regular communications with the police officer assigned to that beat.

At a recent city-wide conference sponsored by

Citizens' Alert, strong objection was made to the secrecy surrounding the beat representatives and all the records and reports connected with the program. One community leader noted that if the identity of the beat reps was kept secret, it would eliminate any value they could have in encouraging citizen participation and citizen control. "If nobody knows who they are, then the Beat Representative Program is not new, it is just the same old 'snitch program' the Chicago police has had all along."

Also criticized was the method of selection of beat representatives. The district commanders now have all final say on who can and who cannot become a beat representative, and there is no community voice in the process.

In the 19th district a beat rep citizen coordinator recently proposed to have open elections to choose beat representatives and block captains, but his was immediately vetoed by the district commander. With no community control in the selection of the beat reps it is unlikely that the program will have any effect in making the police more accountable to the community.

As one conference participant placed it: "The beat rep program is just more police control of the community. To stop crime and police abuse both, we need community control of the police."□

Groups Inspect Cook County Jail

The following is an account of a recent trip through Cook County Jail by ISC legal worker Randy Saltz. The trip was one of a series of inspections sponsored by the Illinois Prisons and Jails Project which negotiated with Sheriff Elrod for public inspection of the county facility by community groups. It should be remembered that a great many of the inmates are awaiting trial, "innocent until proven guilty," but too poor to make bond or afford a lawyer to get a bond reduction.

A quick pat down search by Mr. Gray who in the last 20 years has probably searched more people than most men alive, a walk through a metal detector, an invisible stamp put on your hand, and then, you can walk through the heavy metal door.

A long corridor painted with many designs and immaculately cleaned and shining awaits you next; then four sections on the right, four on the left. Each has a visiting area consisting of 5 smaller areas with a small glass window and a wall that separates you from the person you have come to visit. You're in the Cook County Jail from the outside looking in.

On September 3rd, 1975, I toured the Cook County Jail as part of an inspection team formed from community organizations all over the city. The Illinois Prisons and Jails Project has negotiated with Sheriff Elrod to allow us in to inspect each of the 3 divisions that make up the County Jail Complex — women's detention, house of corrections, and the county jail — on a once a month basis.

Behind the fresh coats of paint in the hallways and visiting sections are perhaps the most horrible living conditions this person has ever seen. There are usually two rows of 39 cells in each tier. The cells house 2 and often 3 people: two in bunk beds and one on the floor or two on the floor and one in a bed.

There is a day room equipped with wooden tables, occasionally a t.v., bathroom facilities, and showers, plus an area called the kitchen



A great many of the inmates are awaiting trial, "innocent until proven guilty", but too poor to make bond.

where the trays are washed. The day rooms are also used for sleeping with 20 to 25 inmates in some cases sleeping on the floor.

Bedding — sheets, blankets, pillows, mattresses — are not issued to all inmates. When asked, the chief of security said that bedding was like "gold" in the jail. The sheets and blankets that were around were filthy, stained and torn. Often beds were broken or in bad repair. Many times inmates were sleeping two or three in a cell with one or more on the floor, while next to them would be an empty cell with a bed and mattress not being used. Guards, when asked about this "extra" bedding, replied that the empty cell was a storage cell and not used for inmates.

All floors and walls are painted, and the paint for the most part is chipped off and in bad condition. There were very few cleaning supplies visible anywhere and inmates stated that they had to ask repeatedly for the supplies necessary to keep the cells and tiers clean.

According to reports given by inmates, food is wretched with dead insects and hair in it. It is generally served cold and there is not enough of it. Inmates in segregation complained that meals would be brought up in the carts and left for hours before being brought to the cells. In December, when the state inspection team went through the county jail, they found all kitchen facilities substandard and rodent droppings present in the food. These conditions, say many, are still present.

Mail is irregular and always open even if the letters are from attorneys. Air mail stamps are not available so prisoners with family in Puerto Rico or other countries can't write to them.

During the inspection I talked to people in the hole who did not know why they were transferred there. I talked to people who hadn't had showers in 2½ weeks or hadn't been outside their single cells for that length of time.

Following is a tier by tier report of my observations:

- F1: There were 89 inmates sleeping in less than 40 cells, 11 sleeping on the floor. Those on the floor had no mattresses or sheets. There was an average of two or three inmates in cells built for 1 inmate.

- G1: There were 84 inmates, 6 sleeping on the floor. Everyone who was not locked in a cell was milling around the day room, which consisted of 4 or 5 park benches with people sleeping on or under them. Some were watching t.v.

- H1: There were 86 inmates with 20 sleeping on the floor. None had had clean linen at least for one week. Mice were rampant, and 1 out of 3 toilets had been running over for the last month. Mail had been very irregular over the last 3 to 5 weeks. Food contained cockroaches and rat droppings. There had been no yard privileges for three weeks. Sinks were stopped up generally, and many inmates slept in hammocks hung from the bars.

- E1: There were 80 people in 37 cells, 20 to 25 on the day room floor, on benches or in hammocks. Tremendous amounts of filth, rats and standing water were observable. □

Terre Haute Support Group Formed

Four prisoners have died since January in the hospital within the United States Penitentiary located at Terre Haute, Indiana. Each man was the victim of incompetent medical personnel, faulty equipment, neglect or racism.

Yusuf (Joe Jones), a 30 year old Black man from Chicago, died in the prison hospital on August 14th. From the time Yusuf was admitted to the prison hospital until the time he died, a period of approximately eight hours, he had not been seen by a doctor even though he was an intensive care patient experiencing breathing difficulties.

Bill Walters, a medical training assistant at the prison, had been called to Yusuf's side by a prisoner nurse an hour or so before he died. Walters looked at Yusuf for a few seconds and then left to dispense medication to other patients on the floor. The prisoner nurse and a prisoner patient then tried to comfort Yusuf.

"Finally," reads a press release by prisoners at Terre Haute, "Walters comes with the respirator which was broken. Hospital workers and others had told Walters two weeks earlier that the respirator was broken." Next Yusuf's I.V. machine broke, filling a tube with backed up blood. Shortly after the tube filled with blood and after he saw the respirator wasn't working, Walters administered a shot of Thorazine to Yusuf. Within twenty minutes after the shot was

administered, Yusuf died.

After Yusuf's pulse stopped, Walters made a last attempt to "save" him by giving him a shot of adrenalin. Moreover, an emergency cart was brought up to the intensive care unit in hopes of reviving Yusuf with an electric jolt. However, when the cart appeared it turned out that Walters didn't know how to operate it.

Yusuf, a rising Sunni Muslim minister, was gaining respect around Terre Haute, and his relatives have not ruled out the possibility of pre-meditated murder on the part of prison officials.

In this case, as in the case of William Lowe, the first prisoner-victim to die in January, the prisoner was not moved to a hospital in the community where adequate medical care could have been provided. Though Yusuf died from an asthma condition and Lowe from pneumonia, each died when equipment in the hospital failed to function. Each was administered a shot of barbiturates at a time when their physical condition was deteriorating, and when it was imperative that they stay awake and struggle for

their lives.

C.L. Benson, the warden at Terre Haute during all four hospital tragedies, has attempted to suppress the facts around all of the deaths. However, the William Lowe Movement, a group of prisoners which emerged from a January work stoppage protesting Lowe's death, was responsible for having the office of the Surgeon General of the United States investigate the hospital facilities and the circumstances around Lowe's death. As a result, both the doctor and the hospital administrator "resigned."

The Terre Haute Support Group has formed to uncover the facts around Yusuf's death. People are urged to write letters of protest to the following people: The Surgeon General of the United States, Office of the Surgeon General, Washington, D.C.; Norman Carlson, Director, U.S. Bureau of Prisons, 101 Indiana Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C.; and C.L. Benson, Warden, Box 33, Terre Haute, Indiana 47808. Also, letters should be sent to Congressman Robert Kastenmeier, Chairman, Subcommittee on Courts, Civil Liberties and Administration of Justice, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515, requesting a full-scale investigation into Terre Haute's medical facilities and the circumstances around Yusuf's death.□

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FIGHTING CITY HALL

The Rich Evacuate the Poor on Broadway

As protest and community action came last month in response to big developer Bill Thompson's 4½ acre "redevelopment project" at Montrose and Broadway, Thompson moved to realize an even further expanded development plan for the Broadway area. It appears that this developer, ex son-in-law of Mayor Daley, plans to buy most of Broadway from Montrose south past Buena. His intention to drive low-income families from this area is now clear and irrefutable.

The history of the 4200 block of Broadway, community groups point out, is a concentrated example of the misery and frustration which city policy has caused the people of the poor and oppressed neighborhoods. Several years ago HUD (the federal housing agency) sold the courtway buildings on this block to a do-good, tax write-off foundation called the Maremont Foundation. Maremont soon gave them back to HUD in worse condition than they received them. HUD then mismanaged these buildings until they were sold at "auction" to a partner of Bill Thompson who left the buildings to Thompson's City Centrum Management Company.

During this time, the families who lived in the courtway buildings complained bitterly about the deteriorating conditions, even holding demon-

strations at the HUD office. They fought hard for recreation facilities to guarantee the safety of their children, several of whom had been hit by speeding cars on the busy street. They got no relief from the city.

Now the "blueprint" for this area is coming to light. Almost everyone in the courtway buildings has received an eviction notice. While moving out poor families from the community, Vietnamese refugees have been moved into some apartments with highly subsidized rents to bring in temporary income.

Recent information has it that Thompson is negotiating to buy or has already bought the building at 4213 Broadway, just south of the courtway buildings and the businesses at 4209, 4203½ and 4201 N. Broadway.

Across the street, where residents have fought long and hard for a playlot, the city is just now putting down the playlot surface for the children of the middle and upper income families that will soon replace the poor. From the corner of Montrose and Broadway, where a new high-class shopping center and giant highrise twin towers will be built, to the Chesterton just south of Buena, which is being systematically emptied of low-income families, Thompson's master plan for the wholesale evacuation of the poor is swiftly taking effect.

As in other areas, community leaders point out, the middle class liberal opposition to the Thompson empire has faded away, perhaps at the cocktail parties and elegant gatherings in Thompson's nearby neighborhood. Hundreds of families, many of whom have been moved 9 or 10 times in recent years, must find new housing from the scarce supply and uproot their children



Suburban contractors put down the play-lot surface for the children of the middle and upper income families that will soon replace the poor.

from yet another school as winter approaches.

Spokespeople from the 46th Ward Community Service Center which is coordinating a suit in federal court to block Thompson's development, point out that the city is more than a silent partner in what they call this "rape of the community." The city approved the rezoning for the area, and they are meekly going to move the Urban Progress multi-service center off of Thompson's project and out of Uptown.

"Senator Kennedy, an Irish democrat," said a Service Center worker, "is even now calling for an investigation of the wholesale evacuation of a people from some remote island near India to be replaced by a military base. But thousands more have been evacuated from their homes right here in the Irish democratic stronghold of Chicago. Where is the congressional investigation of Chicago?" □

Breakfast Programs Slowly Being Implemented

Since this summer's federal court order to the Chicago School Board to get free breakfast to all eligible students or face losing federal funds for the breakfast program, there has been a small amount of progress. At the time of the court order, it was reported that out of 620 Chicago schools last year, only 130 had participated in the breakfast program. It was noted at that time that some of the neediest students in Chicago were enrolled in 490 schools not participating in the program.

The court order came as a result of a law suit filed by Legal Aid on behalf of children who were being denied free breakfasts because the schools they attended did not participate in the program. Joel Stein, one of the attorneys working on the suit reports that 222 schools now have the breakfast program. The remaining schools that do not serve breakfast but do have the facilities are scheduled to begin their programs by October 11th according to verbal assurances made to Stein by the director of the school food programs. In addition, a good number of schools do not presently have the facilities to be able to provide breakfast. As yet there is no plan to get these facilities so that the program can be implemented. Stein, however, received word that such a plan will be offered by the Board of

Education on October 7th.

A *KEEP STRONG* survey of schools in the Uptown area disclosed that all the schools except Brennenman are serving breakfast. The delinquent school's administration appears to be dragging its feet as it has slowly begun to take the necessary steps to get breakfast served.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Congress approved a bill to continue the school breakfast and lunch programs. The programs' funding has been scheduled to end September 30th. For Chicago children, this new funding will only have meaning if the school board sincerely moves to implement breakfast programs in more than half of its schools that are currently in violation of the July federal court order. □

Judge says: Daley Must Face Police Spying Suit

Federal Judge Joel M. Flaum ruled on September 10, 1975 that Mayor Richard J. Daley and the Chicago Police Board must remain as defendants in a \$400,000 federal suit which accuses the Chicago Police Department of illegal spying activities on more than 30 community organizations and more than a hundred individuals. The Judge's decision means that charges brought in a recent complaint filed by the Alliance to End Repression (see *KEEP STRONG* September, 1975) stating that Daley had "direct, personal participation" in spying activities, are substantial enough to order a trial.

Attorneys for Daley and the Police Board had filed a motion to excuse them as defendants on the basis that the suit does not state specific charges. Evidence for Daley's involvement includes "routing slips" for "transmittal reports" from the Chicago Police Department Intelligence Division. These slips show that the Mayor's Office of Investigation and the Administrative Assistant to the Mayor were among 15 city departments which routinely received intelligence reports.

The Judge's recent ruling and the conclusion in late September of hearings by the Cook County Grand Jury investigating police spying means that Daley and others may be subpoenaed to answer questions about their activities, possibly leading to indictments in the near future. □

Chicago School Round-up

The Chicago Public School system with 535,000 students gets its money from a combination of city, state and federal funds. The current financial crisis is set against a backdrop of **a consistent School Board policy of presenting budgets which are very unclear. There is almost no way now for citizens to review and change these budgets.** On top of this manipulated confusion, state funding is not planned well ahead. State funding does not operate effectively to help assure that an adequate and equal amount of money is spent on each child throughout the state. In addition, the Chicago School Board does not even take full advantage of the inadequate and piecemeal federal funds available. (For example, a recent court decision **ordered** all eligible Chicago schools to apply for money to serve breakfast to eligible children. Yet these funds have been available a long time.) This summer the federal government (HEW) turned down the Chicago School Board's request for 7.9 million dollars because the **schools do not provide adequate bilingual programs which are greatly needed here,** and the schools discriminate in placing teachers.

The National Center for Health Statistics reports that well over 1.1% of our young people ages 12 to 17 throughout the country cannot read. In Chicago, this remains a critical problem with children, especially in the poor communities. **Too many Chicago students are just not getting the most basic reading, writing, and other skills they need to survive.**

"Blue slipping" continues to be a major concern of parents here. That is the widespread practice of labeling children who do not "fit in", who ask too many questions, or who are rebellious in any way, as mentally ill. **While some youngsters may genuinely benefit from good quality, community-based counseling service (which is rarely available), the present system has inaccurately labeled an enormous number of youth.** This mass labeling has many serious consequences. Teachers see the label and then assume the youngster can't learn. The vague label becomes part of the records which follow the child throughout his/her life. "Blue slipping" is basically another dangerous method for dumping students into the backwaters of the school system . . . Similar patterns of discrimination against, Latino, Black, and poor children in general were documented in a suit against the Board of Education charging serious misuse of I.Q. and other tests to basically label children as unable to learn.

People should know, by the way, that **through recent court decisions they now have the right to inspect all of their child's school records, including comments by teachers and others.**

The School Board policy of keeping class size to 29 in elementary schools and 32 in high schools is not being carried out in many schools . . . **Bureaucratic bungling of the overcentralized schools** continues throughout the system as shown in a recent special report that documents teachers routinely waiting two months and more for basic classroom supplies. □

ADVISORY COUNCILS

"It's my kid and it's my school and I'm going to talk!"

All Chicago schools have parent advisory councils that are supposed to be made up of teachers and mostly parents. These councils are one of the few vehicles that parents have to get some input into the education of their children. Each advisory council has its own set of by-laws and each varies in its effectiveness. The schools are mandated to hold open elections to the advisory councils. Some do and some do not. Marabelle Christenberry has lived in the Uptown community for many years. She has raised 5 children of her own as well as many foster children. She has always been a very active woman and has served on advisory councils at Goudy School, 5120 N. Winthrop, McCutcheon School, 4865 N. Sheridan and the Disney Magnet School, 4140 N. Marine Drive in the last 3 years. She currently has children attending each of these schools. Following is an interview with Marabelle Christenberry in which she discusses her experiences with the councils at all 3 schools.

KEEP STRONG: What parent advisory councils have you been involved in and what are some of

your experiences with them?

Marabelle Christenberry: Goudy was the worst one because there were no other parents there except me. I was the only one. And the first time I went in there it was pretty bad. They didn't want me there. Dr. McDonald (the principal) and I had words. He got so mad he jumped up... They don't want the parents there at Goudy.

KS: Who made up the advisory council?

MC: Teachers... I was the only parent. If I'd ask questions about something they wouldn't answer; they'd kind of slide over it. I had a lot of questions the first meeting I went to. So one of the teachers started yelling out, "Let's stick to the agenda. Let's stop answering these silly questions." Goudy is really the worst one.

KS: How does the advisory council get chosen?

MC: It's supposed to be elected and I don't see how Goudy's was even elected. I went on my



Marabelle Christenberry: "Reading is a terrible problem. Kids have graduated, and they can't read their diplomas."

own. And then I became a member of it, because I was the only parent there. They're supposed to have a lot of parents there. How the rest of these people got elected into it I have no idea unless they vote for each other. That's the only way I would know.

KS: What was the purpose of it? What things did they discuss?

MC: They were supposed to be discussing school problems, school issues and things, but they didn't discuss anything. They sat around and ate candy and talked about this or that, but it wasn't about school.

One special education class was being held in a closet, in a cloak room, and so my first time there was for that purpose — to get that class out of there. They had pool tables in the classroom, and the cloak room was where the class was being held. So I had a real argument with them that the pool tables weren't more important than the children. And they started right off. Also, they had a class being held in the vault where there are no windows, no nothing in there except this big heavy door. The class is still being held in the vault.

Now Disney, of course, they have a real good advisory council. You know Disney is a different type of school. They have 200-300 parents coming to a meeting. It's not like three or four parents showing. McCutcheon is good. They don't sit around and talk about what they're going to do after the meeting or what they did yesterday or something, they stick strictly to what's happening in the schools. And any parent can come.

KS: At McCutcheon School, were there elections for people to be on the advisory council?

MC: Yes. They sent flyers home. They do that at all the schools. They send the flyers home explaining that there is going to be a big general meeting, elections are going to be held and then as many people as possible will come to that. There are nominations and then elections are held. Two parents for each class are elected to the board of directors and the advisory council is supposed to be fifteen parents.

KS: Who else is on the advisory council?

MC: Teachers — there are supposed to be four or five teachers and the rest are parents. They try to get mostly the parents. I'm talking about McCutcheon and Goudy. Now at Disney they have something like twenty-one of them.

KS: You said at Goudy, you were the only parent there, and at McCutcheon there were fifteen parents. What do you think the reason is? Why do you think that people do or don't participate?

MC: I think it's the principal. Because at Goudy I made calls to the parents and tried to get them to come and they simply were not interested. While at McCutcheon the principal calls parents herself, and I feel it's the principal's fault if parents can't be reached. She'd go out on the street, stop parents and talk to them. When they come they're made to feel welcomed, where at Goudy it's completely different. You walk in there as a parent and they just don't treat you that way.

KS: Do you think the education they are receiving is adequate in any of the schools?

MC: No. I think it's the teachers themselves who don't appear to know much more than the kids do. They really don't. I think the teachers, especially in Uptown, look down on the kids. They feel that they're higher up than the kids are. If they're welfare kids, "so what." I just don't feel that they're getting an education.

KS: We've talked about education with a lot of parents. One of the main concerns they have is that their children aren't properly learning how to read.

MC: That's right. Reading is a terrible problem. Reading is just terrible. Very few of them can read. Kids have graduated and they can't even read their diploma.

KS: In terms of the advisory council, is it ever brought up about the quality of education the kids are receiving — the fact that they're being bored or they're not learning the basic skills that they need?

MC: No, because the advisory council is for problems that are going on in the school, if the teacher is mistreating the children, that type of thing. They really don't discuss the types of teachers that we have.

Nowadays, if you don't read, you don't read. That's why the parents should go on strike. If the teachers want more money, let the teachers learn to teach. I don't think they know how. They have very little patience with the kids — very little patience. They don't want to be bothered.

KS: Maybe the advisory councils should have some input into the kind of education that their kids get.

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The Southern School

The following is an interview with Jerry Rothman, administrative director of the Southern School. The school, located in the Uptown community, currently has 2 classes for 30 kids. They have 2 teachers and an associate teacher which often makes it possible to have 2 adults in the classroom at a time. The school is accredited and can give high school diplomas. The youth who attend range in age from 12 years to 17 years.

KEEP STRONG: First, would you give us a history of the Southern School?

Jerry Rothman: It started in 1969. Pat Zimmerman started working in a free space with 8 kids who were not going to school at that time. He really didn't have an idea of starting a school. He just had the idea of working with students. And from there, it slowly expanded until there were about 50 students and 3 classes.

KS: What was the original concept behind starting the school?

JR: I think it was a question of liking to teach, liking the students, not fitting real well to public school, and looking for a more flexible way to work with students who couldn't make it in

public school.

KS: Well, what's the concept of the school now, since it's been several years since 1969.

JR: We see our main mission as education and working with students who are not able to be in public schools. We don't take students if they can possibly make it in public school. I think we've expanded a little in terms of what we do. We work more with parents now, but basically still around the students' learning problems. About a year ago is when I came. Now that we have some administrative time we're trying to expand. Most of the students will go into jobs. So we're working on that. We'd like to set up some kind of co-op or store or working on cars. Something that the students could get vocational experiences from and that also would be of service to the parents or the community.

KS: Do you have a grade system?

JR: No. It's non-graded. We have self-contained classrooms so that students are with one teacher all day long. The teachers sometimes will trade students on various occasions, but most of our students need a self-contained classroom. They have a hard time with switching through a day



"The teachers here see their jobs as more than a 9:00 to 3:00 commitment."

and dealing with 4 to 6 different teachers.

KS: Why do you think they can make it here, when they can't make it in the high school?

JR: I think there are a lot of reasons. The teachers here see their job as more than a 9:00 to 3:00 commitment. We usually come in around 8:30 a.m. The teachers spend about an hour talking with kids in an informal way in the rec room or wherever the kids drift to. Then there's classes. Then, after the day the teachers hang around until the last kids leave so that they can work on whatever problems come up. There's a lot of informal time that we structure in through the day. The teachers put a lot of time in — evenings, weekends, whatever has to be done. There's no rigid idea what a teaching job ought to be. It's not structured like an institution. We're a storefront. The kids are playing rock music. The work itself is very traditional but it focuses on basic skills—reading, spelling and math. But the atmosphere is not traditional. It's very informal. Kids can dress however they want and can talk however they want. And there's no pressure put on them about their culture.

KS: What's the reason most of them couldn't make it in the public schools?

JR: It's a combination of schools not having appropriate programs for kids that take more of a teacher's time plus the kids having various problems that keep them from dealing with the public school in a satisfactory way.

KS: How do you think things should evolve. Should there be one big Southern School with a lot of kids coming or a lot of Southern Schools or should the public schools just be changed?

JR: I think schools of 100-200 kids gives you a sense of community in learning and allows everybody to know every student and call him by name. Rather than the Southern School becoming a big mammoth place to meet all the needs of Uptown, there ought to be a lot of different schools that are small and intimate that students can relate to. □

Advisory Councils

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MC: Yes, they could, but you can't get enough people involved to back you in that. You figure I was one person on an advisory council, and I was fighting like mad to get a classroom where there were twenty-two kids. I should have had twenty-one parents backing me. At any school



the advisory council will go to certain lengths, but they really will not get that involved to demand a certain type of education. They just will not go that far.

KS: If parents wanted to do that, do you think the advisory council would be a forum that they could use?

MC: Yes, they would have the power to do it, and they are listened to. They can go to the District Superintendent's meeting — I mean members of the advisory council — and speak. And they have the power to do that type of thing if you can get them that involved. I think that parents not getting involved is the cause of a lot of problems, because the schools get away with so much. If the parents were more involved, they wouldn't try some of the things that they do.

KS: What are some of the things you are talking about?

MC: Like letting a teacher go without supplies. And there are teachers without supplies. If the teacher doesn't have those supplies, how can she teach that child she has?

KS: One parent I was talking to last week said that she didn't feel she had a vehicle by which she could have any say over the education of her children. One of her children goes to Goudy and she was saying that she doesn't feel she can work with the people there. Not everybody has the fortitude that you have to stay through a council.

MC: Because you really have to down-talk them. If they're going to shout at you, you have to shout right back and shout a little louder. And those things do happen. At Goudy I know that's happened to me. They tried to shout me down and it didn't work. A parent has simply just got to say, "It's my kid, and it's my school and I'm going to talk." □

Oakland Community School:

A Model Education



BPINS photo

Ms. ERICKA HUGGINS, director of the Oakland Community School, with some of the many beautiful children who attend the School.

The Oakland Community School recently celebrated its 5th anniversary. In the following article reprinted from "The Black Panther" Ms. Ericka Huggins, director of the elementary level school, makes clear the role of the school is to provide a model education, when she says, "The goal of the school is for children to learn how to make decisions and conclusions for themselves. Once they have the facts about world conditions, they will not just feel obligated to change them. They will want to change them."

In the five years of its existence, the Oakland Community School (formerly the Intercommunal Youth Institute) has grown from a storefront with 15 students to 120 students attending the spacious facility at 6118 East 14th Street — home of the Oakland Community Learning Center.

In a recent interview with THE BLACK PANTHER, Ms. Ericka Huggins, the dedicated director of the tuition-free, elementary level model school, looked back over the past five years and the tremendous growth the School has undergone in terms of students, staff, facilities and curriculum.

The Oakland Community School is located in the primarily Black community of East Oakland and therefore has a predominantly Black enrollment. However, the community immediately surrounding the School also has a sizable Mexican-American community, and several Mexican-American children attend the School along with Asian and White children. One subject recently added to the curriculum is the Spanish language. Students are instructed in Spanish not only because of the School's nearness to the Spanish-speaking community but also because



Spanish is the second most widely spoken language in the U.S. and in Oakland.

"We are not nationalist oriented like many of the so-called 'free' and 'open' schools," Ericka emphasizes. "We want our children to look at themselves as human beings and feel a sense of pride. Our children don't relate to skin color but judge each other as individuals," Ericka noted.

The goal of the School, Ericka explained, is for the children "to learn how to make decisions and conclusions for themselves. Once they have the facts about world conditions, they will not just feel obligated to change them. They will *want* to change them," Ericka said.

Discussing the impact that the School has had on Oakland and the Bay Area, Ericka explained: "People look to us for correct methods in elementary level education. They feel that this is what an alternative school should be." The Black community, she added, looks to the School as a source of "hope" for the education in the public schools.

Also "as people began to see that we were really a school," Ericka said, "we began to attract more instructors and more funding. And it is through funding and small donations that we survive, financially."

The students, ages two and one-half to 11, are required to learn how to read, write and carry out basic mathematical operations, skills which Ericka describes as "survival" tools particularly necessary for the existence of Black and minority children in America.

The School has 22 teachers and 10 other staff members, plus additional volunteers, only six of



whom are paid. Comments Ericka, "our teachers learn by doing. They are here because they want to be here. They have to be motivated by more than just a paycheck. They must be committed to meeting the needs of our children."

The teachers come from all over the country and work long hours with the children. "Our instructors are not just responsible for his or her particular class," Ericka said. "They are expected to contribute to the total aspect of the School." For example, teachers and other staff help serve the children and each other the three nutritious meals provided daily.

Unlike most public schools, the Oakland Community School holds weekly staff meetings and meets more often if necessary. The staff contributes ideas for fund-raising and, along with the parents, helps provide transportation for the children to and from school.

Ericka proudly notes that the students' parents are very active in the School, providing aid in the classrooms, offices, cafeteria and in writing proposals to obtain funding for the School. "The parents are our best public relations source," Ericka said.

The children, who are placed in Groups 1 through 8 according to their skills and abilities, do not receive "report cards" but are regularly evaluated, a process in which the children, their teachers and parents participate.

Ericka will be serving as a consultant for progressive schools, instructing their staffs in "our approach to education — an approach which, like the Oakland Community School itself, is fast gaining the respect of all who come into contact with it." □

BOSTON:

"It Would Have Broken Your Heart"

Slim Coleman, coordinator of the Intercommunal Survival Committee, recently returned from a visit to Boston, Massachusetts, which is in the midst of a crisis over busing. In the following interview Slim discusses his impressions.

KEEP STRONG: *You just returned from Boston. How would you describe the situation there around busing and the schools?*

Slim Coleman: First off, the busing situation has a long history there. Boston has had a super racist school board, led by this woman Louise Day Hicks, for more than ten years. I don't think anybody in the Black community wanted the busing, but they did want a decent education, with decent schools and books. Because of the school board and its racism, the Black community schools are far worse than schools in the white community. So the Black community seems to be



ISC Coordinator, Slim Coleman

looking at busing as a way to shake up the racist power structure and to get some equal education.

KS: *What about the whites?*

SC: The most violent reaction came from South Boston last year, when the federal judge ordered busing to desegregate the schools. Organized white racist groups, like ROAR, which support Louise Day Hicks, went into the white community to mobilize against Black people. They played on fear and prejudice and on many people's honest desire to have their kids go to school close to home. What resulted was a virtual race war, not only in the schools, but all over the city.

Again, I don't think anybody wanted their kids, Black or white, bused into another community to go to school. But the whites had *some* community control of their own schools because they kept electing this racist school board. The Black community could not get any community control or any kind of a fair share of educational resources, because of this same racist school board. So, since the white community could not cooperate with the Black community, sharing control and resources, busing was brought about through the courts. And that gave politicians like Hicks and groups like ROAR a chance to mobilize some support for themselves, on a racist basis.

KS: *Do you think those same racist forces exist here in Chicago?*

SC: Well, Chicago has a majority of Black and Latino people, so the racists cannot afford to be as vocal, which is a good thing. But the key is in understanding what creates these so-called "racist forces."

You know, George Wallace, who makes white racism a big part of his political pitch, ran for office his first time — he was running for county judge — as a liberal, down in Alabama. Some other guy ran against him saying Wallace was going to let the Black people take over. Wallace lost the election, and he determined never to let



\$300,000 a day on police and military personnel — that would educate alot of kids if communities threw the racists out and took control.

anyone be more racist than him again.

It's politics, which is based on economics. The wealthy white businessmen and their front-man politicians give a few more crumbs to the poor and working whites than to the Black communities. Then they mobilize the whites to vote for them saying, "I'll protect your few more crumbs from the Blacks who are trying to steal them off of you."

That kind of political manipulation of ignorant prejudice exists in every ward in Chicago where white politicians are going after white votes. That's a fact. Check out Alderman Pucinski or Vrdolyak, Cohen or Mayor Daley when they talk in white neighborhoods. Why Daley just jumped a white inexperienced Irishman over a qualified, experienced Black man to be the new Chicago Superintendent of schools. Why? — to keep his political base in the white neighborhoods strong.

The pitiful thing in Boston is that the folks in South Boston, the whites, had schools only a little bit better than the schools in the Black community when they both are compared to schools in the suburbs. I went there — the people in South Boston are plain poor. They defended the crumbs to the death while the suburbs ate the cake.

KS: How do you think the situation in Boston could be improved?

SC: The government won't improve anything unless it is forced to by the people. Even now the president of the U.S. is lighting the fires of race war with his statements against busing at this time. The police are on the side of the racists; they are racists.

It's up to the people, and we have to learn a thing or two from Boston. While a few progressive whites worked honestly and courageously to ease tensions, they were out-organized a thousand to one by the racists.

The intellectuals and armchair radicals made big statements which often only made things worse, because they weren't in the oppressed communities struggling for survival the rest of the year. They had no roots in the community.

Boston should make us understand why Black people have developed all Black organizations for their own survival and progress: they can't depend on the good will of the white community or the actions of progressive white organizations that have no support.

As whites we have to organize in our own communities as if our life depended on it — because it does. The racists in our communities are well-organized and backed by the money and power of politicians and big business interests. Our organizations — people's organizations — have to organize against racism while serving the community on a day to day basis, winning the people to our ideas by the example of our very lives.

KS: Did Boston have a big effect on you?

SC: They are spending \$300,000 a day on police and military personnel to keep the city in one piece. That would educate alot of kids if a unified, intelligent coalition of communities threw the racists out and took control of the situation.

If you had seen the children going to school, afraid for their lives, it would have broken your heart. □

NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Louisville, Kentucky

"Desegregate":

To stop the forced separation, isolation, or segregation of one group of people by another; to remove the public (tax supported) or governmental participation and leadership in this forced segregation.

As school opened this fall, newspaper headlines around the country told of crises in Louisville, Kentucky and Boston, Massachusetts. KEEP STRONG talked with residents in both cities and learned that the main story behind the headlines is that the so-called anti-busing movement is being led by the Ku Klux Klan and other groups whose purpose is racist terror and forced segregation. Many white people earnestly concerned about their children's education and angry about governmental failures in everything from schools to unemployment and inflation, are easy prey for these groups because of their racial fears. Cynical politicians are only too glad to encourage this continued cover up of their failures to serve the interests and needs of the majority of people.

The first steps to desegregate the countywide Louisville school system were: busing of students, a few physical and other improvements in some schools (mostly those in the worst shape which were formerly all Black or all poor white) by providing them with athletic equipment and other necessary supplies, rearranging some teacher assignments so that more students would have both Black and white teachers, and other shifting of how money and supplies are distributed to equalize resources available to each student throughout the county.

A sizeable white boycott of the schools and a Ku Klux Klan demonstration at a high school to threaten Black students (which was against a



The so-called anti-busing movement is being led by the Ku Klux Klan and other groups whose purpose is racist terror.

court ban on gatherings near the schools but was allowed to continue by local police) marked the first day of school in Louisville. The week continued with threats against Black students and cross burnings at the homes of some white families who also sent their children to get an education. White boycott groups pressed the openly racist basis of their opposition to desegregation. Parents for Freedom even publicly called for unity with the Ku Klux Klan. Finally, major mob violence erupted against Black students and their community, against some white children who were attending school, and against local law enforcement personnel charged with protecting the students. Over 900 National Guard were called in to temporarily limit the attacks and protect those students trying to go to school.

Throughout the most difficult days, Black children's school attendance remained high — a moving indication of that community's determination not to be intimidated by racist terror. To insure that nothing prevents the youth from gaining an education, Black parents are working in their local schools to insure the children's safety, insure that their cultural identity is maintained, and to help improve the overall quality of education. Attendance of white children has been increasing at a steady rate. Threats to Black children and the Black community continue. The cross burnings and other harassment of some white families sending their children to school continue. Some of the National Guard who rode the buses to protect the children were threatened. Overall attendance climbed from 60% to 75% in the first two weeks. The mechanics of the busing are uneven and especially bad in some sections of the Black community where groups of children waiting to go to school have been left stranded. The National Guard has been sent home.

During the months before school opened, the Ku Klux Klan made a major organizing effort throughout the state of Kentucky. Local officials have not opposed the growing public terror activities of the Klan. Organized opposition to the Klan began to emerge through the summer. Just before school opened in Louisville a citizens' group held its second march and demonstration against the Klan a half block from the KKK's cross-burning rally in Fairdale (an area away from the center of town). The citizens' group received an enthusiastic response as they marched through the Black community affirming that Black people have a right to equal education and squarely putting themselves on the line to say "Stop the Klan and all vigilante groups."

Marching to City Hall they demanded protection for Black and white students, enforcement of a ban on racist demonstrations near schools, an end to racist attacks on Louisville citizens, upgrading of all schools especially those in the Black and poor white communities, and the extension of Black history courses to all schools as a necessary part of the knowledge of the real world needed by all children.

An indoor rally followed by a march is planned October 11th to honor the dignity, courage, and unity shown by Louisville students, and to oppose forced segregation, racist violence, and to put a stop to the Klan. It is sponsored by Progress in Education, a broad group of organizations and individuals including Concerned Parents for Quality Education, the Southern Conference Education Fund, the Tenants' Union, many church, labor and civic groups, and the Black Panther Party. □



Oglala Lakota People Assert Their Rights

As the traditional chiefs and headmen of the Oglala Lakota people attempted to assert their rights in Washington, D.C., and arrange a meeting with President Ford or Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, massive repression and armed attacks by the F.B.I., Bureau of Indian Affairs (B.I.A.) police, and other agents of the U.S. government continued against Native

Americans around the country.

The Lakota Treaty Council, which is made up of the traditional chiefs and headmen and is the legitimate government of the Oglala Lakota Nation as recognized by most of the traditional people, arrived in Washington, D.C. on August 30th. They were accompanied by members of the American Indian Movement (A.I.M.). "The Six Nation Iroquois Confederacy as well as the Standing Rock Sioux and Shoshone Tribal Councils, the United Sioux Tribal Government, and several tribal governments on the west coast have endorsed..." this action by the Oglala Nation. They were in Washington to try to arrange a meeting with Ford to discuss the many abuses of the Oglala Nation by the U.S. government in flagrant violation of the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty. With respect for the U.S. Constitution covering agreements between two sovereign states, they have refused to meet with anyone other than the President or the Secretary of State. Also, pointing out recent experiences with lesser agencies and officials of the U.S. government, citing their lack of knowledge, inexperience, powerlessness, and insensitivity in dealing with past Indian problems, the Indian leaders have vowed to remain in Washington until they have met with Ford or Kissinger.

Meanwhile, in other parts of the country the attacks against the Native American people continued. On Pine Ridge, South Dakota, Dick Wilson and his "goon squad" along with the F.B.I. and the B.I.A. police continue to terrorize the entire reservation. Over thirty people have died there in the past two years at the hands of Wilson's "goons."

In White Oak, Oklahoma on September 12, the homes of two Native Americans were raided by seven carloads of F.B.I., Secret Service, B.I.A. police and the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. They had search warrants claiming they were looking for guns. No guns were found on the premises. Jerry Brown and Marvin Thomas (whose brother John is in Washington as an A.I.M. observer) were arrested anyway and charged with possession of marijuana even though no marijuana was found on the immediate premises. On the Rosebud Reservation, South Dakota over 100 agents armed with automatic weapons and four helicopters came at dawn and arrested seven people with no regard for their sovereign rights as guaranteed by past treaties.

As can best be stated by the Oglala peoples, in a letter to President Ford requesting a meeting with him..."Our chiefs understood the historical

agreement (the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty) as saying that from this day forward, our people shall no longer fight. That all bad feelings for each other would be no more, as relatives we will hand in hand walk towards a better relationship and strive towards a better understanding, between two nations...We come to help you and your people remember the commitments that your government made to our people in the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868. For *we* have never forgotten."□

UFW Wins Election Victories Over Teamsters

(Salinas, Calif.) Worldwide attention is focused on California's "farm belt" as the United Farmworkers, led by Cesar Chavez, are struggling for the right to represent farmworkers on ranches and farms throughout the state.

Through a recent California legislative bill, secret ballot elections are being held so farmworkers can vote for the union of their choice. This was made necessary because farm owners attempted to destroy the UFW by signing contracts with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, going over the heads of farm laborers.

So far the UFW has scored major victories and has also suffered some stinging set-backs. In Salinas, California, at Interharvest, the nation's largest lettuce producer, the UFW defeated the Teamsters in a convincing 1,167 to 28 vote while elections at E & J Gallo, the world's largest wine producer, have been highly questionable with the Teamsters initially coming out ahead. In 1973 Gallo vineyards signed contracts with the Teamsters after the UFW had represented Gallo farmworkers for over six years, touching off a movement led by the UFW for secret ballot elections. There were 150 ballots impounded as the Teamsters racked up 223 to 121 UFW votes. The ballots which were impounded were those of "economic strikers" who struck Gallo when the UFW lost its contract there. It is now up to the courts to decide if these ballots are acceptable. If they are the balance of votes will shift in favor of the UFW.

Cesar Chavez and his aides have reported numerous election irregularities and actual

intimidation of voters. Some workers were threatened with firing if they voted for UFW and the polling sites themselves resemble armed camps surrounded by shotgun and rifle-wielding security guards. On top of this the polling sites are surrounded by cyclone topped fences with barbed wire. Chavez complained that "many of the workers were so frightened they didn't vote."

By September 25th, 71 elections had been certified. The UFW led the Teamsters 47 to 24. The UFW started with 12 contracts to the Teamster's 375 but have won the right to organize 6,100 farmworkers while the Teamsters have won the right to represent 3,100.

An unusual development has been the recent unity of American-born document holding farmworkers and "illegals," who have slipped across the Mexican border without documents. Previously, farmworkers frowned on these illegals because they kept wages down and were used as scabs during strikes. But now, through UFW, an active defense has been taken up for them. The aliens themselves stated that "We recognize that our best protection is to unite with the majority of the worker," in order to fight off attacks by the ranchers, Teamsters, and the border patrol.

Because these workers now have the rights of union representation under this election, farmers and the border patrol have intensified attacks on them to prevent their joining the UFW.

So far the UFW is holding up in its most crucial test since its inception and, to an extent, has defeated the concerted effort of the Teamsters and the growers to destroy them. □

Workings of Secret Government Continue To Be Revealed

In the midst of Congressional and other investigations, the activities of the CIA, FBI and other intelligence agencies continue to surface bit by bit.

The FBI admitted 238 specific illegal break-ins by government agents (at least one in Chicago) and mentioned "numerous others" as part of their system for keeping these burglaries secret.



Senator Schweiker of Pennsylvania called the FBI's secret "black bag" jobs the "perfect cover-up." "It amounted to total deception," the Republican Senator said.

CIA opening of mail, which became public earlier this year, now seems to have also included opening the foreign correspondence of such political figures as Richard Nixon, Ted Kennedy, and Hubert Humphrey. The CIA now lamely claims that their secret storage of deadly poisons against direct presidential orders was not an Agency decision but "the independent actions of subordinates."

Meanwhile, it has come out that the latest Ford would-be assassin, Sara Jane Moore, was an FBI informer until June of this year and continued to file reports on dissident groups almost until the time she was arrested. Reports also show that the FBI informer was "interviewed" by the Secret Service the night before her alleged attempt to kill Ford.

Calls to reopen the assassination of both Kennedy brothers also grew. Former Texas Attorney General Waggoner Carr, who headed Texas' investigation of John Kennedy's assassination at the time, urged Congress to conduct a new inquiry into possible links between Lee Harvey Oswald and the FBI and CIA. In California, medical reports confirmed that Robert Kennedy was shot in the *back* of the head, not from the front where Sirhan Sirhan, the lone man convicted for the killing, was standing. New investigations have begun in the courts.

The surfacing of SLA heiress Patricia Hearst again raised the question of the SLA's true intentions. It was founded under the leadership of "Cinque," a long time police informer and agent provocateur. While questioning of Ms. Hearst may give the FBI leads to arrest several alleged underground activists, Ms. Hearst herself is getting the best of legal and financial aid as she is gently treated by authorities, waiting her chance to plead "brainwashing" and extended temporary insanity. □

JoAnne Little RETURNS TO CHICAGO

JoAnne Little recently made a three day whirlwind trip through Chicago, September 18th to 21st, to help focus attention on the Delbert Tibbs case. Returning to Chicago for the first time since her historic acquittal in North Carolina (of charges stemming from an incident where she defended herself against a racist prison guard who attempted to rape her), Ms. Little was featured on radio and t.v. shows throughout her stay here. With a few notable exceptions, the press showed her great respect, and she was able to bring the Delbert Tibbs case to the attention of hundreds of thousands of people in Chicago.

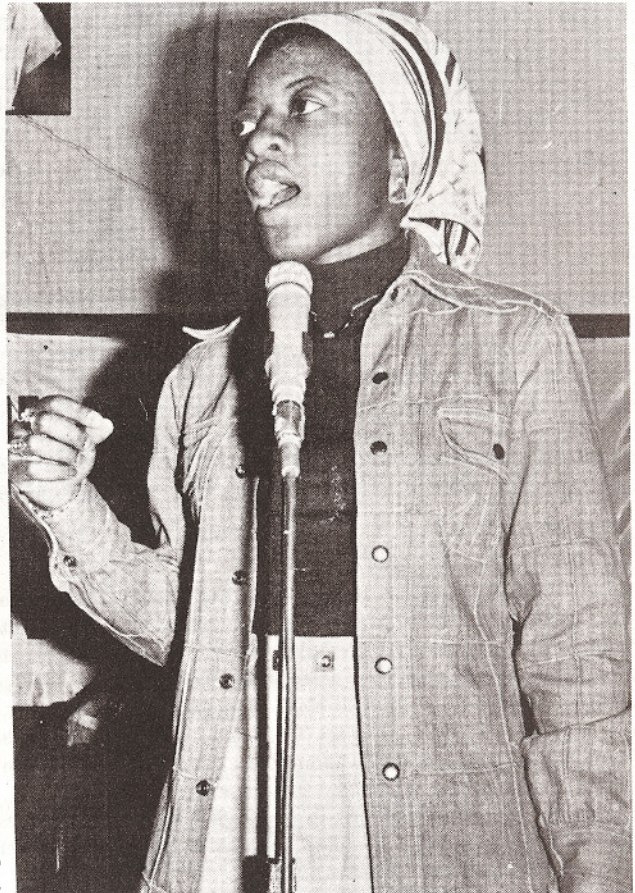
Delbert Tibbs is a 36 year old Black man from



Delbert Tibbs

Chicago charged with rape in Florida. This tragic but all too familiar case brought Tibbs before an all white jury which convicted him of raping a white woman and sentenced him to death. The Delbert Tibbs Defense Committee points out that the evidence was almost non-existent and mostly contradictory (see box below.)

A writer, Tibbs was traveling through the country, alone, with very little money, hoping to learn from the people he met. He was picked up several hundred miles away even though his description in no way fitted that given by the victim. This case is now on appeal, and a national committee has been formed to raise funds for his



JoAnne Little

defense.

An unexpected highlight of Ms. Little's visit came when Sister JoAnne and Larry Little, the national spokesperson of her own defense committee and coordinator of the Winston-Salem Chapter of the Black Panther Party, both dropped by the Intercommunal Survival Committee's community forum. With only a few hours advance notice, over 300 Uptown residents packed into the regular Saturday morning meeting to hear Ms. Little.

An attentive crowd listened first to brother Larry Little speak emotionally of his meeting with Chicago leader Fred Hampton three weeks before his assassination. Many in the crowd were moved by the great similarity to Fred which Larry displayed in energy, dedication, and warmth as he talked about the need to build deep roots in the community through the community survival programs, serving the concrete needs of the people. As an example, Larry Little explained that JoAnne had avoided the waiting press after her acquittal and had spent the next ten hours working in the Black Panther Party free ambulance service office in Winston-Salem answering the phones.

JoAnne Little then completely won the hearts of the mixed Uptown crowd of poor whites, Latinos, Native Americans and Black people as she told the ironically humorous details of her daring escape from jail following the incident with Alligood, the prison guard. She pointed out that the situation of overcrowding in Cook County Jail was a situation well known to her, a

situation where poor people must wait in jail because they do not have the money to make bail or hire competent attorneys. She told of the massive and overwhelming response of thousands of people around the country to her case, each donating small amounts of money to make her the "one in a million" who got an adequate defense.

After speaking, Ms. Little was presented with a bouquet of flowers by a young white sister from the community and received many warm words from an enthusiastic crowd that greatly appreciated her taking time out from a busy schedule to come down into the oppressed community.

Speaking that evening at PUSH headquarters to a crowd of nearly seven hundred, JoAnne emphasized her support for the Delbert Tibbs Defense Committee. She called on the people to stand together behind Delbert Tibbs the way they had stood together behind her. Then she showed her understanding of the day to day oppression of all Black and poor people by speaking out against greedy businessmen who take from the community but "put nothing back in." She offered the survival programs of the Black Panther Party and other groups as a concrete way to reach and organize the people and criticized those who only give rhetoric to the community. Then, she again emphasized that there are thousands of JoAnne Littles still in prison, unable to get a fair trial because of lack of funds; and she said that "none of us can be free as long as these people, people like Delbert Tibbs, are still in jail."□

THE FACTS ABOUT DELBERT TIBBS' CASE

The State of Florida has convicted Delbert Tibbs of picking up a 16 year old woman and one of her boyfriends in a pick up truck on February 3, 1974, near Fort Myers, Florida, of raping her and shooting the man to death.

The facts are:

1. No truck was ever found.
2. No .25 caliber pistol (the alleged murder weapon) was ever found.
3. No one in or near Fort Myers could be found to testify that they had seen Delbert Tibbs in the area except Miss Nadeau. In fact, she testified that he had told her he worked in the area.
4. Miss Nadeau described her attacker as dark skinned with pock marks on his face. Delbert Tibbs is light skinned, sand colored, with a smooth clear complexion.
5. On February 3, 1974, Delbert Tibbs was in Daytona Beach, 225 miles from Fort Myers. He was hitchhiking.
6. Nadeau's other boyfriend was not questioned about his possible involvement in the crimes. Nadeau was not given a paraffin test to see if she had fired a weapon recently.
7. Convicted rapist, Sylvester Gibbs, serving a life sentence testified that Tibbs confessed to him while he was in jail. The date given for the so-called confession was 3 weeks before Tibbs was even arrested. Gibbs was caught lying several times on the witness stand.
8. Delbert Tibbs was judged by an all white jury in a judicial district that is 16% Black.

Judge Clamps Secrecy Order on F.B.I. Informer's Statement

In a pair of separate, yet equally contested rulings, federal District Court Judge Sam Perry has clamped a strict secrecy order on the forthcoming deposition of F.B.I. informer William O'Neal and has also ordered all grand jury testimony and exhibits related to the police raid and murder of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark turned over to attorneys for their families.

Both rulings have significant implications for the upcoming \$47 million damage suit filed against those responsible for the December 4, 1969, pre-dawn attack by the families of the slain Illinois state Black Panther Party leaders and the seven survivors of the infamous raid.

Concerning the deposition of O'Neal, recently "found" after the U.S. attorney's office here alleged his disappearance, Judge Perry ruled that attorneys in the case are forbidden to even discuss the date, time, place or whether the statement had been taken.

Perry said that the gag rule, sought by assistant U.S. Attorney Arnold Kanter, who is defending the law enforcement officials in the case, was made "to protect O'Neal's life."

When O'Neal first surfaced in 1973 as a paid F.B.I. informer who had infiltrated the Chicago Black Panther Party in early 1969, he requested and was granted federal protection. He was given a new identity, a new job — and a new face — in another location.

In the five days in early September when he was alleged to be "missing" — which coincided with initial attempts by the families' attorneys to obtain his disposition — Kanter claimed O'Neal had voluntarily refused the federal protection.

Yet, when two highly reputable sources close to the case told reporters that federal marshals were hiding O'Neal — and an attorney for the family asked Perry to make Kanter swear under oath that he did not know the location of the



Fred Hampton, Deputy Chairman, Illinois Chapter, Black Panther Party.

Judas agent — an "inadvertently misplaced" telephone number became the feeble excuse.

Judge Perry dismissed several government objections in his order that the grand jury documents be released to the families' attorneys. "The need for secrecy of the grand jury proceeding has long passed," Perry said.

Local federal authorities were reluctant to give up the transcripts of the raiders' statements because of often conflicting stories and exhibits of positive proof that the murdering police carried out a prearranged plan to assassinate Fred Hampton, the dedicated and dynamic deputy chairman of the Illinois State Chapter, who was slain in his sleep.

During the course of court arguments over the grand jury material, government attorneys indicated that some exhibits of the raid have been damaged or are missing. □

Reprinted from "The Black Panther"

INTERCOMMUNAL PERSPECTIVE

Support for the Independence of Puerto Rico Grows

On September 5th more than 200 delegates from 90 countries and 35 organizations gathered in Havana, Cuba, to attend the International Conference in Solidarity with the Independence of Puerto Rico. Conference attendance included delegations from most of Asia, Africa and Latin America, with significant representation from organizations in Europe and the United States. The theme of the conference was unified support for the Puerto Rican people's struggle to gain independence from the United States, and all present were moved by the international unity around the goal.

The September conference followed the recent 1974 resolution passed by the United Nations declaring that Puerto Rico is in fact a colony of the United States. For many years the U.S. government has tried to maintain to the world that the island of Puerto Rico "freely associated" itself with the United States, but the U.N. resolution was passed over their objection.

The facts of the colonial status of Puerto Rico have now become widely known. Known to

investors as "Profit Island, U.S.A.," the political, social, and economic aspects of Puerto Rican life are totally controlled by the U.S. government and large U.S. corporations. This absolute control has created starvation wages, an unemployment rate of over 30%, a cost of living higher than the U.S., military occupation by U.S. armed forces, the sterilization of 35% of Puerto Rican women of child-bearing age, and the forced migration of nearly 40% of the population to the U.S. where they face a life of poverty and racial oppression in the cities and unspeakable degradation and misery in the migrant workers' camps. As a possession of the U.S., with few rights, Puerto Rican youth are drafted into the army but cannot vote for the president who declares the wars they fight in.

The International Conference in September of this year affirmed the U.N. resolution as to the colonial status of Puerto Rico and supported the island's right to self-determination. While it was recognized that only the Puerto Rican people themselves could win this fight, it was seen that the force of world opinion against colonial domination was vitally important. The role of world opinion in forcing the U.S. to give up its military and colonial control of South Vietnam was noted frequently at the conference.

Organizers of the Puerto Rican Solidarity Committee here in the United States have pointed out the special responsibility of the people of the U.S. to force their government to give up its domination of Puerto Rico. They say that "no people can be free which keeps another people in chains." The Solidarity Committee has a local chapter organizing in Chicago and plans are being made for a strong educational campaign throughout the city.



Led by the Young Lords Organization, several thousand marched supporting Puerto Rican Independence in Chicago in 1969.

David DuBois: Report on Visit to Peking University

David G. DuBois, official spokesperson of the Black Panther Party, returned to China last year on his third visit. Following are excerpts of his observations and impressions upon his return to Peking University where he had been a student in 1959.

For me one of the highlights of our one-month visit to the People's Republic of China last October was the return to Peking University. I had been a student at Peking University for the school year September, 1959, through June, 1960. I was the only American in a group of several hundred foreign students invited to undertake a three-year course of study at Peking University. Included in the group were students from Vietnam, Korea, Indonesia, the Soviet Union, Mongolia, and the eastern European socialist countries. There were also students from several Western European countries, from Egypt and political exiled students from other African and Latin American countries.

I succeeded in completing the year's study. It was no small accomplishment, but one that taught me much about the human potential, so disasterously unfulfilled for the vast majority in a capitalistic society. Upon completion of the school year, I could converse in Chinese with my Chinese friends. I could move easily about the city of Peking, buy what I needed from the shops, order meals in restaurants and answer uncomplicated questions put to me by citizens of the city. With help, I could read the daily newspaper and I would write uncomplicated sentences.

The Peking University I returned to in October, 1974, had changed. This time it was a brief visit, of only a few hours, and consisted mainly in a presentation and discussion with the president, Chou Pei-yuen, who is also vice president of the Revolutionary Committee of Peking University, and several members of the teaching staff and students. . .

The average age for entrance now to Peking University is 20 years of age, with an academic level above the Jr. Middle School level. They also must be physically fit. On entrance and



throughout their course of study, the state pays for all their expenses, including mimeographed textbooks and provides pocket money.

The procedure followed for entrance to Peking University is the following: the applicant voluntarily makes application directly to the university. Following this move, the applicant appears before his/her co-workers to present the reasons for applying and the co-workers are then asked to make a recommendation on the applicant. Following the recommendation of the co-workers, the leadership acts on the recommendation of the co-workers. And finally, the applicant is re-examined by the entrance committee at Peking University.

Formerly, before the cultural revolution, because students entered the university as a result of high marks in Middle School or because their families could afford to send them or had the proper connections, students concluded that their purpose at the university was to study for themselves and their personal advancement. Under the present system of drawing upon working class and peasant youth and Middle School graduates who have spent at least two years in industry, in the countryside or in the army, the students are much more clear-minded about their purpose of study. They understand



that they are studying for the revolution. They come to the university rich in practical experience making it possible to learn theory much faster and in a deeper way. They are better able to integrate theory and practice.

Formerly the teachers, the classroom and books were the centers of education, carried out behind closed doors. As a result, the students were divorced from the masses of people and from productive labor. Thus, the principle of integrating theory with practice was developed. In other words, to run the university with an open door policy. . .

Peking University itself runs seven factories with 27 work shops. The university has contact with 65 factories for the study of students in practical work of production. "We are making efforts to educate our students in all-round development, morally, intellectually, physically; students as workers with a socialist commitment," Chou Pei-yuen, president of Peking University told us.

The school period is generally three years. For some courses of study it is four years. Since 1970, more than 7,000 new students have entered Peking University from workers, peasant and army origins. The university also conducts short term and advance study courses of from three to six months. Over 7,000 students participated in these courses in 1974.

For example, the radio department of the university runs short term courses for mastering the technical skills in broadcasting. During 1974 some 2,600 worker, peasant, army students

graduated from these courses at a generally higher level than earlier graduates. Natural science students during 1974 carried out 389 research projects. Of that number, 75 have reached advanced levels. Ten of the projects were formerly presented at the National Conference of Fuel and Chemicals, at which the country's top specialists come together. The projects were highly praised by the specialists. Formerly, research papers were highly individual, unrelated to the key national needs and often known only by the student and the professor.

The attempt in the present teaching method being developed at Peking University is to train students to analyze and investigate problems; to combine book knowledge with practical application. The method is the following: Students are provided with texts for the course of study. The students independently read and study the texts followed by student discussions, sometimes joined by the teacher, sometimes not. For these discussions, workers, peasants or army personnel are invited to contribute their rich experience in the area of study. Also, students and teachers organize trips to factories and to the countryside, to hold discussions and to carry out activities related to the area of study. The point is to give full play to the students' initiative.

At present Peking University has 20 departments. There are seven departments under the Liberal Arts Faculty; ten departments under the Natural Science Faculty; three departments of Foreign Languages and 75 specialities. There are at present 2,600 members on the faculty of Peking University. □

Community Recreation Program Begins

The 46th Ward Community Service Center, citing the lack of organized recreational activity in the Uptown area and calling for closer bonds of friendship between all of our area youth, has established a Community Recreation Program. Having completed its first baseball season, it is making preparations for a winter of basketball and volleyball.

Many people participated in this summer's baseball program. There were games every Sunday at the field on Marine Drive near Ainslie. Two fine teams were developed representing the 4100 block of Kenmore and the Intercommunal Survival Committee. The highlight of the season was an All Star game played against a team representing Schiller Park, Illinois in Schiller Park. The Uptown team lost by a score of 22-21, although all the brothers showed great spirit and

determination.

Meanwhile, preparations are being made to set up basketball and volleyball leagues for the winter months. The Service Center has secured the use of the facilities at Gill Park every Sunday, and is in the process of negotiating for the use of the McCormick Chicago Boys' Club at least one weekday evening.

Jack Hart, the director of the recreational program, says that they need help of any and all kinds in order for this program to really get off the ground. They need gym shoes, equipment, transportation or donations of money to be put towards these items. Also they need sponsors (any one over the age of 16 can be a sponsor) and the names of youth who would like to participate. If anyone is interested in helping call 472-1031 or 275-4778. □

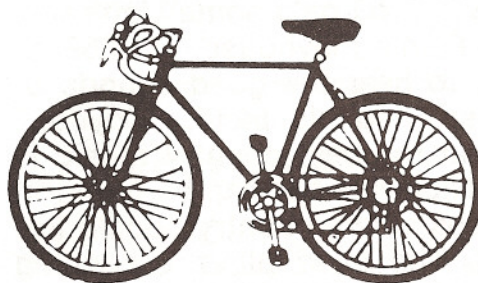
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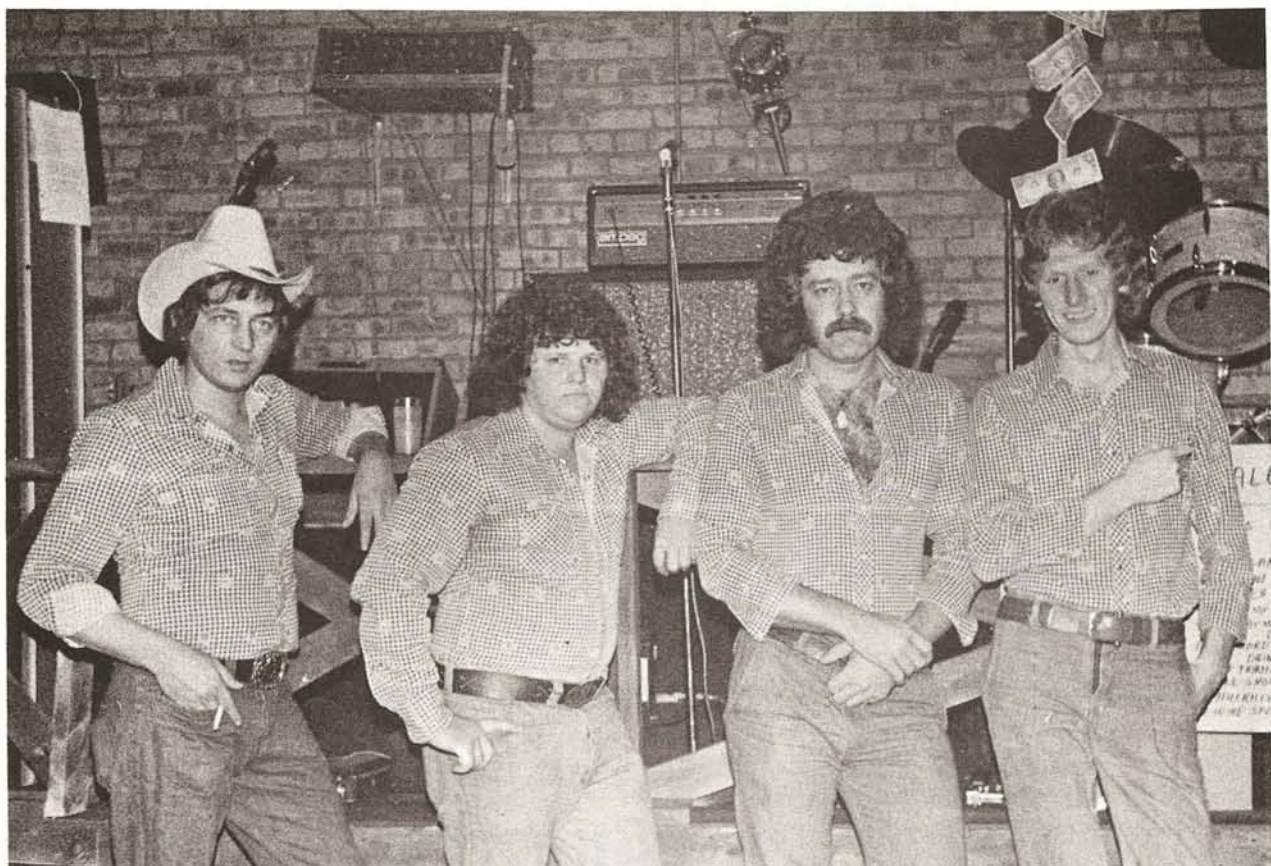
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Ray Hillbern & "Coyote"!



KEEP STRONG paid some visits this month to Pam's Playhouse, at 4569 N. Clark St., to hear the good sounds of Ray Hillbern and his band, "Coyote," proving that the best country music is not all in Nashville but can be found in many places where country people live and work. The band plays everything from some old Hank Williams tunes and many favorites of today and the last few years to Ray's own original compositions, like "Porter Wagner Suit" (all I need to be a star is a Porter Wagner suit), and has made Pam's come alive on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday nights right up till 4 a.m. Listening to the Texas born and bred Hillbern's down blues and

good country licks is one way Uptown folks are keeping heart and soul together with the hard times that face all of us.

"Coyote" features Ronnie Dickens on a clean lead guitar, Terry Paul on drums, Daryl Stanford on bass guitar and Ray Hillbern on guitar as lead singer. An 8-track tape of "Coyote's" best songs is available at Pam's and we strongly advise you to pick one up when you stop by to check out this fine group. Uptown can be proud of Ray Hillbern and "Coyote"; they are going to go a long way up in the world of country music. □

Johnny Cash

MAN IN BLACK

If you listen to WJJD you probably heard last month's "Man in Black Week-End." The station played many of Johnny Cash's hit songs and gave away copies of his new book, *Man in Black*.

Man in Black is, according to Cash, the story of his life and a "spiritual Odyssey." It tells the story of his early family life, a hard-working religious farming family in Arkansas. It was a family that believed in right and wrong and the lessons taught in the Bible.

As John R. Cash made his way to stardom through the book, he turns from "the good to the bad." He is introduced to the world of drugs and becomes seriously addicted to a combination of Benzedrine and barbiturates. He destroys his first marriage, loses friends and disappoints his family. But hundreds of people - friends, family, ministers and even strangers - who are moved by

his music come to his assistance, trying to put him back on the straight road.

With the help of people and especially his wife, June Carter, Johnny Cash "turns around," although he will face many "daily mountains" as he goes on. He cleans up off of pills and dedicates himself to being an example of strength, honesty and Christian love. As many said, "Johnny Cash got religion."

But although the book rings true about one man's honest struggle for self-understanding, it leaves out a few things that the rest of us can't afford to forget. After Cash's "bad years" he searches for the humanity and truthfulness he knew as a child. And in going back to the old, he takes the bad with the good, to save himself the mental anxiety of distinguishing one from the other.

We cannot forget Johnny Cash and his family standing before the camera on his popular network show, urging support for Nixon's "get tough" policy in an unjust and inhuman war in Vietnam. Nor can we forget his idol Billy Graham gathering support for Nixon during the Water-gate investigation.

In short, Johnny Cash started waving the flag uncritically because flag-waving was part of the past that represented peace and security to him.

Perhaps Johnny Cash is more honest than many other country and western singers who do the same thing to make money, but perhaps too, he lacks the courage to separate what is good in our people's history of struggle, from the blind, racist flag-waving which is setting us at war with most of the world and maintaining the unjust hold of the rich over the poor and oppressed in this country. □

ALBUM OF THE MONTH

The Isley Brothers

The *KEEP STRONG* "Album of the Month" for October is "The Heat is On" by the Isley Brothers, featuring their hit single, "Fight the Power." The two sides of this exciting record are two sides of the coin in the lives of all oppressed people: outside and inside, hard and soft, struggling and loving. On one side, "Fight the Power," "The Heat is On" and "Hope You Feel Better Love" tell us all to keep on keepin' on,

"Now's not the time to give in to the madness." Side two, with "For the Love of You," "Sensuality," and "Make Me Say it Again, Girl" expresses the love that sustains us. "The touch of love will be, forever strong and forever sweet, and giving into passion flow, create a world we want to grow." Get this album if you can; we need the Isley Brothers. □

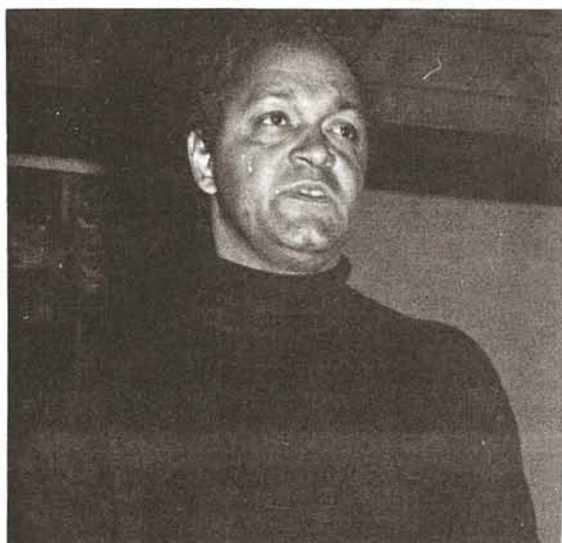
COMMUNITY FORUMS

The regular Saturday morning Community Forums, held in Uptown at 4520 N. Beacon, continued throughout September, focusing on problems in the schools.

The kick-off last month featured the monthly Country Music Breakfast on the first Saturday where a friendly time was spent by all ages in the community with home-cooked food and music provided by the Black Mountain Boys along with local talent joining in.

The two forums dedicated to education focused on the problem that our youth is not learning to read in schools which often show them and their families disrespect. The ISC took the position that parents should join the Local Parent Advisory Councils and through active and militant participation use these councils to get some control over the direction of the local schools. The formation of a parents' union was also discussed. Then Nathan Lofton, principal of the new Hazel-Wilson Middle School spoke on the new concepts in developing reading skills he is trying to implement at his school. Lofton showed to the Forum's satisfaction that he was honestly willing to work with the community to fight for a better education in the schools.

The high point of the month came with a visit to the Forum by JoAnne Little and the coordinator of the Winston-Salem chapter of the Black Panther Party, brother Larry Little. Over three hundred community residents packed into the Beacon Street Hall to hear and applaud them (see story on p. 31). □



Nathan Lofton, principal of Hazel-Wilson Middle School



The Black Mountain Boys



JoAnne Little received flowers and a warm welcome.



Over 300 came to hear JoAnne Little Saturday, September 20th.

WHY HAVE THESE FEDERAL AGENCIES BEEN HARASSING THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY AND HUEY P. NEWTON?



THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

which specifically targeted the Black Panther Party in its COINTELPRO program which attempted to "disrupt, misdirect, discredit, or otherwise neutralize" Black "militant" and civil rights organizations.



THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

which served summonses on banks to find out the names of as many Black Panther Party contributors as possible — in order to intimidate those contributors and shut off funds to the Party.



THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS (AT&F)

whose agent, J.J. Newberry, personally showed up to arrest Huey P. Newton during a supposed "barroom incident" provoked by undercover Oakland police.



THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

which has spied on uncounted U.S. groups and individuals. The Black Panther Party was the principal target organization mentioned in the original New York Times article on CIA domestic surveillance.

BECAUSE THEY DON'T LIKE WHAT THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY HAS BEEN DOING!

SURVIVAL PROGRAMS

Under Huey P. Newton's leadership, the Black Panther Party has set up many "Survival Programs" to provide Black and poor people with decent food, clothing, medical care, education and other basic needs. The Black Panther Party's first survival program, the Free Breakfast for School Children Program organized in 1968, was so successful that the federal government was compelled to start its own School Breakfast Program on a national scale. Other Survival Programs organized by the Black Panther Party include:

- FREE MEDICAL RESEARCH HEALTH CLINICS • FREE SHOE PROGRAM
- FREE COMMISSARY FOR PRISONERS PROGRAM • FREE AMBULANCE PROGRAM
- FREE PLUMBING AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS • FREE CLOTHING PROGRAM
- FREE BUSING TO PRISONS PROGRAM • FREE PEST CONTROL PROGRAM
- SICKLE CELL ANEMIA RESEARCH AND TESTING PROGRAMS
- SENIORS AGAINST A FEARFUL ENVIRONMENT (S.A.F.E.) PROGRAM



In 1971, the Black Panther Party began an active program of on-the-street testing for Sickle Cell Anemia, an inherited blood disease that affects primarily Black people.

PETITION

We the undersigned urge the committees of Congress investigating the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to do a thorough and complete investigation — not only of the activities of these agencies against prominent and “respectable” organizations — but also of the abuses suffered by minority and civil rights organizations, including the following:

Black Panther Party
Institute of the Black World
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
Southern Christian Leadership Conference
Southern Conference Education Fund
Urban League
Welfare Rights Organization

[illegible]

THE COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE FOR HUEY P. NEWTON AND THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY
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"Those of us who are planning to visit or live in Africa should see **And Bid Him Sing** as a kind of guide to bad manners abroad. And we who are ready to nostalgize the sixties would do well to read and recognize some parts of all of ourselves who grew so quickly and changed our race before we could change our minds."

Francille Rusan Wilson
The Black Scholar

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When HUEY P. NEWTON, co-founder and ideologist of the Black Panther Party, disappeared in August, 1974, he left behind his INSIGHTS which embody, as Ericka Huggins has said, "a sensitivity and a humanness that make this man, in his aloneness, a friend to all people." ERICKA HUGGINS' POEMS are the telling introspective record of her own life during the years since her husband, Jon Huggins, was assassinated in Los Angeles in 1969. Since then she has also co-edited the Black Panther newspaper and is director of the Intercommunal Youth Institute, a model elementary school in Oakland.

INTRODUCTION BY ZENTATSU BAKER-ROSHI
of the San Francisco Zen Center

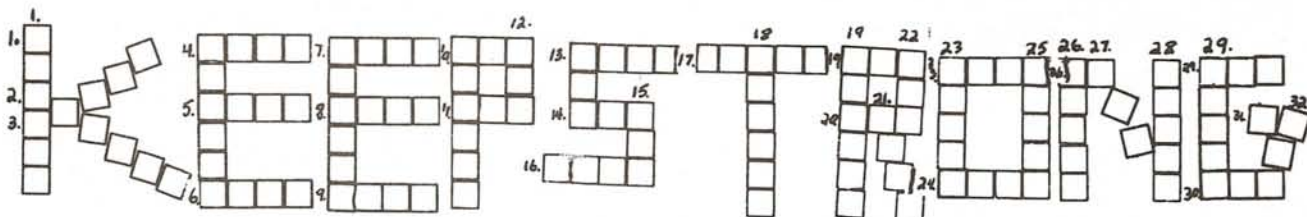
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HUEY NEWTON - ERICKA HUGGINS

HUEY NEWTON ERICKA HUGGINS INSIGHTS & POEMS

A COMMUNITY CROSSWORD PUZZLE FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN TO DO TOGETHER.



DOWN

1. All Power to the _____!
2. A fruit that has vitamin C in it.
3. We all need to have _____ in ourselves.
4. People's Alderman, José _____ - _____ Jiménez.
7. Season of the year; also known as the hawk.
10. The main force in the oppressed community that keeps people divided.
12. The Spanish word for day.
13. There's supposedly a shortage of _____ and the prices have gone up alot.
15. Freedom _____!
18. Huey P. _____, chief theoretician of the Black Party, currently in exile in Cuba.
19. Spoke in Chicago at People's Church July 18th — chairperson of the Black Panther Party.
21. A mineral you take if you're anemic.
22. Another name for a hat.
23. When you have a trial, you get to choose between a _____ and a jury.
25. Some people say that if you find a 4-leaf clover, you will get _____.
26. The school that the B.P.P. started in Oakland, Calif. is a _____ school.
27. The opposite of exit.
28. Another way of saying you have a temperature is to say you have a _____.
29. Ex-vice president, caught performing "dirty tricks"
32. Male child.

ACROSS

4. When crossing streets, look for _____.
5. The Spanish word for water.
6. The U.S. _____ is a military force that serves to oppress people all over the world.
7. Boycott lettuce, grapes and Gallo _____.
8. The opposite of far.
9. What we have to pay the landlord every month.
10. One of the colors of the flag of Africa.
11. Federal agency that has been caught doing domestic spying.
13. Parents in Uptown organized a campaign to stop the sale of toxic _____.
14. Gives us light.
16. After winter there is a _____.
17. What the urban _____ program doesn't do for us.
19. What we do at the Free Lunch Program
20. A short way of saying American Indian Movement.
23. Cook County _____.
24. _____ come, _____ go.
26. You and _____.
29. Emory Douglas creates peoples' _____.
30. Name of welfare program that makes people work.
31. New way of identifying women, married or single.

Answers on Page 48.

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Answers for Crossword Puzzle

DOWN (ALSO SLANTED)

1. People, 2. orange, 3. pride, 4. Cha-Cha, 7. winter,
10. racism, 12. dia, 13. Gas, 15. now, 18. Newton,
19. Elaine, 21. iron, 22. tam, 23. judge, 25. lucky,
26. model, 27. enter, 28. fever, 29. Agnew, 32. son

ACROSS 4. cars, 5. agua, 6. army, 7. wine, 8.
8. near, 9. rent, 10. red, 11. CJA, 13. glue, 14. sun
16. than, 17. renew, 19. eat, 20. Aim, 23. Jail,
24. easy, 26. me, 29. art, 30. win, 31. Ms.

46th Ward Community Service Center

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Randy Saltz and Esther Rodriguez (on left) discuss an immediate problem with community residents.

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